NOISE MITIGATION STATEMENT

SUPPLEMENT TO PLANNING APPLICATION:
2020/3277/P

R.E.: 29 TOTTENHAM STREET, W1T4RP
Alterations to and enlargement of rear ventilation extract duct

This statement is being provided as part of a pre-commencement condition of planning application 2020/3277/P which was granted on the 12th January 2021.

The application regards a minor development to the rear of the restaurant at ground floor and basement level at 29 Tottenham street, W1T 4RP. This concerns the modernisation of the kitchen air extraction system that has been in place for over forty years.

This statement seeks to expand on the noise mitigation part of the new development in addition to what was described in the 'Plant Noise Assessment' by 'RBA Acoustics Limited'.[1] Additionally, this statement coincides with the design as provided by 'Ideal Catering Solutions Limited'.[2]

Summary

The means in which the noise emissions from the new plant will be kept to the lowest possible and logical manner will be described in the following points:

- As shown in the drawings and part files included in the planning application, the motor and its casing's noise emissions were selected alongside a special silencer in order to keep the noise emission as low as possible.[3]

- As recommended by RBA Acoustics, acoustic insulating material (50mm thick mineral fibre with density of 80-100kg/m^3 in addition to a sound barrier mat of 10kg/m^2) will be used to further lower the noise emission levels.[4]

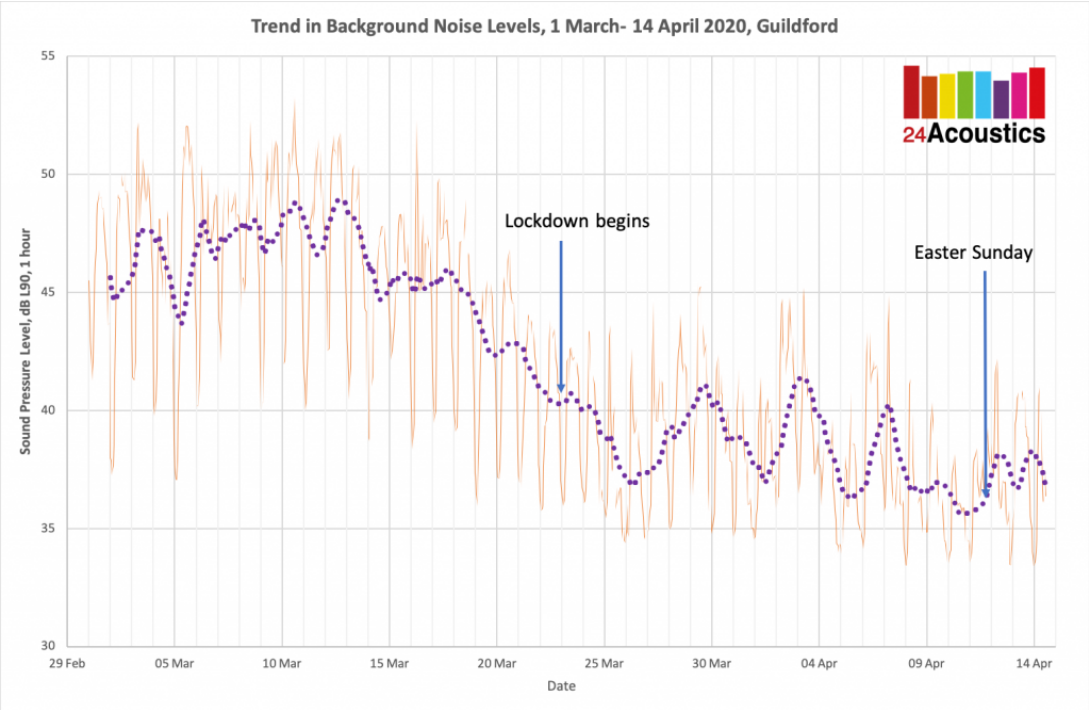
- Anti-vibration wall mounts (as reccomended in report above) will be used to ensure the system's noise vibrations are isolated from other buildings.

Points to take into consideration

As it started to become apparent that the 'COVID-19' epidemic was to turn into a pandemic, major cities around the world enacted a policy of enforced business closures and restrictions as well as limiting social contact outside the workplace. There is no doubt that at what can be abbreviated as the 'lockdown' had impacted the general noise levels produced in such cities especially in their

1 Technical Report 10245.RP01.PNA.0, Part of Planning Application 2020/3277/P
2 Proposed Design, Part of Planning Application 2020/3277/P
3 Motor technical sheet ; Silencer technical sheet. Both part of Planning Application 2020/3277/P
4 Technical Report 10245.RP01.PNA.0, Part of Planning Application 2020/3277/P

centers. This has been scientifically proven from various studies.[5] This can be illustrated in the following graph as produced by '24 Acoustics Limited'.[6]



The report produced by RBA Acoustics along with its data collection (in terms of background noise levels) was generated in May 2019 during London's first lockdown. The proposed development is situated at the rear of the property and within a block with various ventilation motors. To coincide with the lockdown described above, the macroeconomic consequences of the pandemic led to many business closures. Many businesses to which their rear is in the same block as the proposed development have fallen victim to such closures. Therefore many ventilation motors and kitchen extraction units were not producing any noise during the assessment by RBA Acoustics.

As can be portrayed through previous similar planning applications granted by the same Local Authority within the close vicinity of the proposed development,[7] the background noise level is a crucial factor in the local authority's criteria for the plant noise output. Generally, this entails the plant to emit five or ten decibels less than the background noise level.[8]

Application 2014/7955/P granted on the 10/06/2015 (situated around the corner from the proposed development – approximately 50 yards) had their new plant design noise emissions to be set at 34dbA at nearest noise-sensitive receptor. In this case the background noise level was recorded at 44dbA.[9]

Application 2016/3133/P granted on the 30/12/2016 (situated very close from the proposed development – approximately 40 yards) had their new plant design noise emissions to be set at 36-

5 Kang, J et al., 'Assessing the changing urban sound environmentduring the COVID-19 lockdown period usingshort-term acoustic measurements', Noise Mapping, 2020; 7:123–134 ; McNamara, A, 'UK seismic noise 'down by 20 to 50 per cent' during lockdown', Science Focus, 2020

6 Pounds, K, 'Birdsong, traffic noise and mental health: how the natural health service brings joy in UK Covid crisis', SWLondoner, 2020

7 Planning Applications: 2014/7955/P & 2016/3133/P

8 Camden Development Policies2010-2025, Local Development Framework, Policy DP28.

9 Technical Report: 130103-002; Part of Planning Application 2014/7955/P

38dbA at nearest noise-sensitive receptor. In this case the background noise level was recorded between 43 and 51 dbA over a week period.[10]

With regards to the proposed development that concerns this application, the 'Plant Noise Assessment' produced by RBA Acoustics had recorded a background level of 33dbA. Therefore using the standard criteria setting, the new plant noise emissions ought to be set at 28dbA. It is reasonably justifiable to conclude that this target number has been affected by the lockdown described above.

Conclusion

By utilising the suggested motor and silencer along with acoustic insulation materials, the proposed development seeks to keep its plant noise emissions to the lowest possible value. In the case that the plant noise emission slightly exceeds 28dbA it is hoped that the Local Authority employ a fair and reasonable approach along with a pragmatic assessment of the noise emissions of the new plant.

To summarise, as part of application 2020/3277/P, all the necessary steps explained above will be taken to ensure that the noise emissions will be kept as low as realistically possible. As was suggested by Kate Pounds, there are many social benefits in the reduction of noise pollution which this development will achieve if compared to the former system that was in place for over forty years.[11]

10 Technical Report: R6650-1 Rev 0; Part of Planning Application 2016/3133/P

11 Pounds, K, 'Birdsong, traffic noise and mental health: how the natural health service brings joy in UK Covid crisis', SWLondoner, 2020