

## OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION 2022/3622/P

Dear Ms Quigley,

Planning Application - 2022/3622/P

Site Address: Mercure Hotel 130-134 Southampton Row London WC1B 5AF

I write to object to the planning application submitted by the Mercure Hotel and the installation of condenser units.

For the past 45 years, my family and I have been resident in Russell Mansions, which is adjacent to the Mercure Hotel in Southampton Row. We have been considerably distressed by the continuous noise emanating from these condenser units installed by the hotel in October 2021. This noise has, without a doubt, impacted on the health and daily life of myself and my family as we have had so many nights of disrupted sleep for over a year now.

We have been into the hotel several times this year in order to complain about the noise.

Our flat is on the fifth floor, with one of our bedrooms immediately alongside eight of these condenser units. We have to endure the intense noise full on. We are unable to open windows at night to allow ventilation into our rooms, particularly during the Summer months due to the excessive noise of these machines. Even with the windows closed, the noise is quite frankly unbearable.

These machines are designed to provide air conditioning and central heating. The machines whirr away constantly day and night, emitting an incredibly loud drilling noise, pulsating through our building. The noise levels are extremely intense during the Summer months, and even more so now during the Winter as these machines need to work harder in order to generate heat thus increasing the noise levels significantly.

Camden's guidelines for the installation of such machinery clearly states that these machines "are best placed at the rear and away from neighbouring properties as far as practicable". Right next to a neighbouring property is not as far away as practicable. In fact, if there is no such practical site, it goes without saying that these machines should not have been installed by the Mercure Hotel in the first place.

If you refer to the photo of these machines the Mercure have submitted with their planning application, you will see that they have sited these machines against a dark wall - this wall is the wall for the back bedrooms of Russell Mansions. We even feel the vibrations from these machines as they up against the side of our building. The noise in itself affects the heritage of the area and must be a cause for concern.

We have numerous recordings of the noise generated from these machines taken at various times throughout the year, including decibel readings taken in the last few months. We have been measuring noise levels between 77 to 104 decibels. This is completely unacceptable.

This serious issue has been ongoing for 14 months now. It is evident the Mercure would not have submitted any request for planning permission had Camden not contacted them as a result of complaints from local residents about the continuous noise.

Hopefully our objections and those raised by other residents in the area will bring about the immediate removal of these machines and a restoration of the peace particularly at nighttime which is our lawful right.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Osborne  
19 Russell Mansions  
144 Southampton Row  
London WC1B 5AJ