

Response to the Noise Conditions – Weare Festival

There is little information in the email from Joynes Nash consultancy that provides confidence that music noise levels will not be a cause of public nuisance if approved at the 75dBA level proposed. The third bullet point in their email raises even greater concerns in this context.

Until approximately 2017, the noise limit was 65dBA over 15mins (up to 23:00 hours I believe) however this appears to have changed (increase by 5dB) as per a recent licence condition wording (*A music noise level of 70 LAeq dB(A) 15 minute and 80 Leq dB (63Hz) 15 minute both measured 1 m from the façade of any noise sensitive premises*).

The Joynes Nash email however is now looking to raise that again to 75dBA, which is a great concern regarding prevention of public nuisance. A change of 65dBA to 75dBA as proposed is essentially a doubling of the music energy from previous years operations. Whatever level they gain from approval/ wish to have as an operating noise limit, it will be the control of the low frequency which will be of most importance and could gain most complaints, as well as the overall noise level. I have serious doubts this proposed music noise level is workable within the limits of the licencing regime in respect to prevention of public nuisance.

Referring to the original email, the consultant has not proposed a low frequency noise limit for the 63Hz or 125Hz mid octave band frequencies at the nearest or most affected noise sensitive premises. They have proposed a 2km low frequency condition only. Failure to agree a noise condition(s) without the low frequency being monitored/reported (at the nearest or most affected noise sensitive premises) could leave the operation of the festival vulnerable should complaints and issues arise.

The current PoP code is still valid. Recent research does not supersede this guidance document. The consultant states that the key thing is to monitor and proposes a strategy for this. I am not convinced that this proposal is adequate to effectively deal with the management of noise on and off site. The consultant should demonstrate prior to approval of the licence for this year through modelling or predictions that their proposed 75dBA would be met at the nearest or most affected noise sensitive premises, and their proposed 2km radius. I would also stress that the low frequency would need to be agreed for the nearest or most affected noise sensitive premises. This information would usually be expected within a noise report.

Environmental Protection

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