

Arlene Dunbar

From: ALAN WEST [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 September 2014 23:59
To: Licensing
Cc: Jennifer Stewart; Arlene Dunbar; Ross Thomson
Subject: AC0348 - Chester Hotel - Application for Variation

Dear Sirs

I object to the variation to the licence on the following grounds

1. The area to the rear of the Chester Hotel is a residential area. The residents have a right (see below) to a quiet environment at night.
2. It is understood that the outdoor area may be heated. This will mean that there will be prolonged presence of people outside with the resultant 'din of conversation'.
3. There is already permission for a seating area to the rear of the hotel - and there have been recorded incidents of noise late into the night. This is already outwith what would be considered acceptable (see below reference to the EU Directive).
4. Although I have not checked through every piece of paper I have no record of being consulted when the original licence was applied for and I would have certainly objected. There is a record in the licencing office of a letter being prepared but no one in our house has any recollection of receiving the letter.
5. There has been amplified music audible in the residences surrounding the rear of the property. This is a breach of the current licence and corrective action should be taken to deal with this problem before any variations are even considered. This music has been reported to the pollution control department.
6. There has been a history of noise breaches already during the building and the operation of the hotel. There is a question whether the management are taking the issue of noise which affects residents seriously and dealing with it in a responsible manner. This is evidenced by the numerous complaints that have been lodged regarding noise. There is a specific record of noise being created with the full knowledge of the management during May (the noise was clearly audible above the television in my living room). A specific complaint was sent to the pollution control department and they visited the hotel and our house. I wrote a letter to the hotel and they have not responded. I have sent two reminders to Mr Wood (hotel owner) requesting a response and have had no response either to my emails or a response to the letter. The whole way the hotel behaved on that particular evening was quite disturbing and the builder called me on numerous occasions while I was at home which I found quite distressing. My telephone number was passed on to the builder by the hotel reception. This is evidence that there is a cavalier attitude to noise created by the hotel which affects local residents.

7. There is a right under EU Directives to a peaceful night's sleep and there is also guidance from the World Health Organisation regarding noise levels and the potential effects on health (raised blood pressure and heart attacks). These requirements would potentially be breached in the event of the variation being granted. In fact, it is likely that the EU requirements are already being breached.

I bring to your attention a reference to the EU Directive:-

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently published the Night Noise Guidelines for Europe. The new Guidelines present new evidence of the health damage of night time noise exposure and recommend threshold values that, if breached at night, would threaten health. An annual average night exposure not exceeding **40 decibel (dB)** outdoor has been recommended in the Guidelines.

Sleepers that are exposed to night noise levels above 40dB on average throughout the year, corresponding to the sound in a quiet street, can suffer mild health effects like sleep disturbance and insomnia. Above 55dB long term average exposure, similar to the din of a normal conversation, noise can get to trigger elevated blood pressure and heart attacks.

One in five Europeans is regularly exposed to sound exceeding 55dB at night. The new WHO Guidelines provide evidence-based reference which can be easily adopted as limit values for the member states, allowing them to better target anti-noise measures.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/noise/health_effects.htm

I believe that granting the licence would result in a breach of this EU Directive which I understand has been enacted through legislation.

I understand there is the opportunity to make a verbal representation at the licence committee meeting. I would like to register my desire to make a verbal representation. Please advise how this works so that I can attend and the protocol for such a presentation.

Best Regards

