

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 September 2014 21:41
To: Licensing
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' throughout the year.
 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. I have no record of receipt of any notification of the original licensing application and would certainly have objected to it had I done so.
 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 has been reported to the pollution control department.
 6. There has been a history of noise breaches already during the construction phase and the management did not respond to complaints in a responsible manner. This is evidenced by the numerous complaints that have been lodged regarding noise as detailed in my husband's email of objection lodged with your department on the 4th of September 2014.
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6. 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 that the Chester Hotel wish to use this new area (once again constructed without planning permission) for pre-dinner drinks only and would therefore assume that licensing will only be required until early evening and no later than 8pm. If the licence is granted then it should certainly be restricted to before 8pm.

Best Regards