

Additional Information for Licencing Subcommittee Hearing 25 July 2022

Wicks Bar and Bistro, Knowle

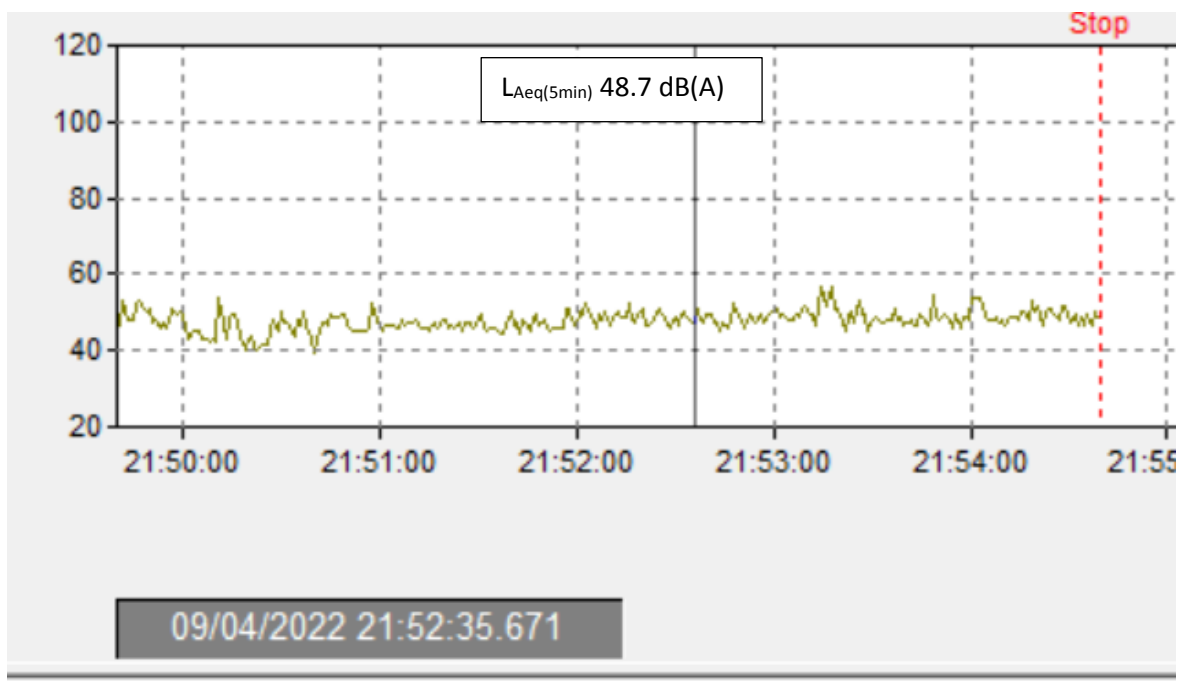
Although playing of audio recordings within the Walton Suite from the monitoring performed was investigated, obtaining a true volume within this room was discovered to be highly problematic. Therefore shown below, are some examples of the results obtained in terms of acoustic parameters. These readings were taken in local residents' lounges/bedrooms, each with a window slightly open for ventilation.

The absolute noise levels were found to vary depending on two key parameters: that being the proximity/orientation of the property to the venue and the music act/style present.

Presented below are examples for the "quieter" Adele tribute event (01 April 2022) and the "louder" Michael Jackson tribute act (09 April 2022). Results for the other nights fell between these two examples.

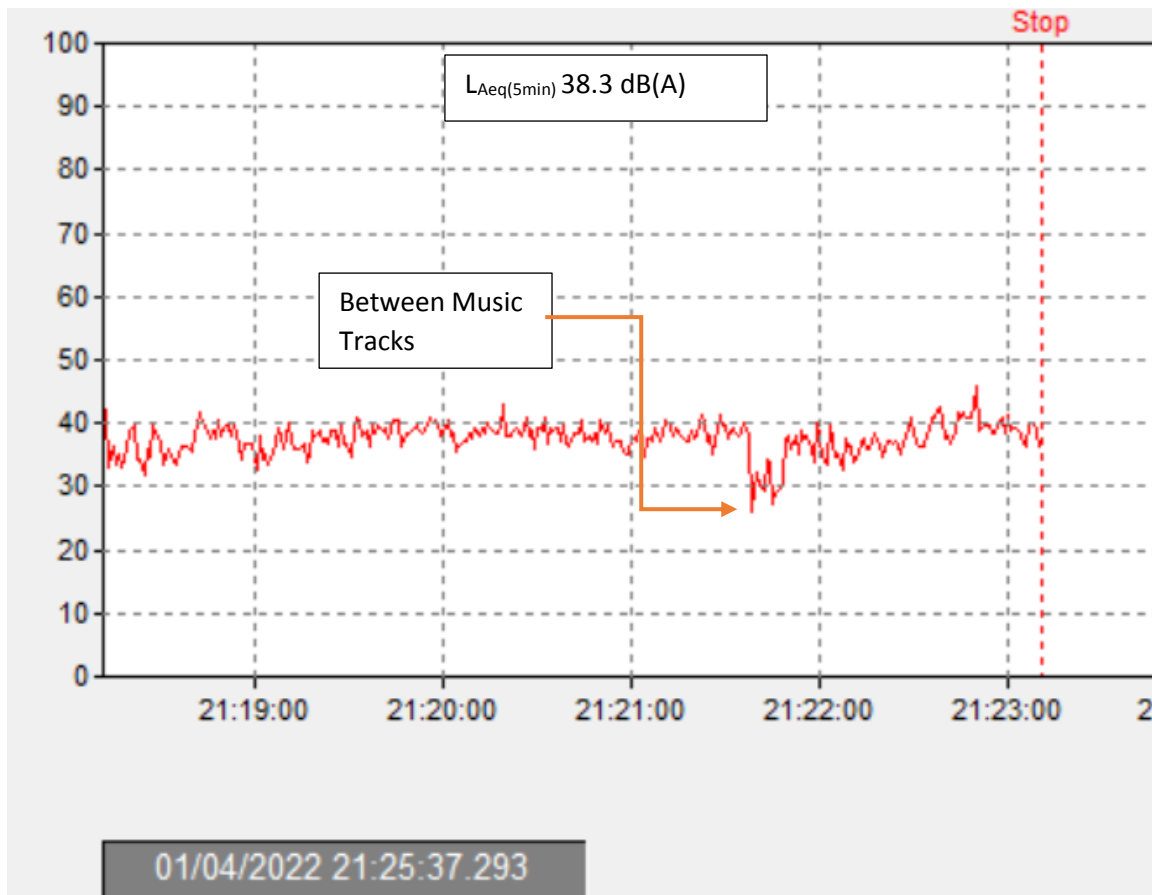
The noise levels are all above that recommended* for rest within a living/bedroom during daytime (i.e. pre 23:00) of 35 dB $L_{Aeq,T}$ (albeit these are often taken using a longer average). It can be seen from the break in music during the event of 01 April this would easily be achieved when music from the venue is not present.

Michael Jackson Tribute Act 09 April 2022



*BS8233:2014 (<https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/guidance-on-sound-insulation-and-noise-reduction-for-buildings/standard>)

Adele Tribute Act 01 April 2022



There appears to have been some understandable confusion by local residents about the mechanism to make a representation. I received several emails that, in my view, had the intent to make such a representation. Unfortunately, these were sent just to my email address whilst I was on leave (my out of office was on) and by the time I returned, the deadline of 28 days to make a representation had expired.

However, I consider this correspondence expresses views that should be available to the subcommittee as part of this review. I have therefore enclosed these below.

Resident 1

The idea of restaurant in Knowle is fine, but having a music venue is not. The music acts that feature are much louder than you would expect from background music in a restaurant venue, and constitutes a music venue rather than a restaurant. Moreover, the frequency of events means we are regularly impacted on both Friday and Saturday nights. At times, there has been weeknight events which is incredibly inconsiderate to people working early as we do, as we have not been able to go to bed at a time that allows us to get enough sleep. The acts are generally of poor quality which makes the impact worse.

While we as adults have to try and carry on with our evening with a din in the background, our 3 year old daughter is affected much more as she is regularly woken up by the noise. This adds further disruption to our routine.

At times such as December 2021, there were constant events, including midweek, which was ridiculous.

Due to the level of disruption experienced, we would prefer not to have any music. If it is once a month and finishes at ten, that is not ideal but wouldn't be the end of the world. No extra in December please as this was very disruptive last year.

Resident 2

I'm not fully clear on where things stand at the moment. Having spoken to the staff at the restaurant my understanding is that they have already been limited to once a month, although from the email you sent it sounds like maybe this isn't in effect yet? They had an act on last night (01/07) and they have one on again tonight (02/07), so if it's the case that they are already limited to once per month then they clearly aren't sticking to it, in which case I'd like to register a complaint about that. I complained in person last night and I called them to ask them to turn it down this evening - when I called the girl who answered the phone had to move to another room to be able to hear me on the phone, so it's obviously fairly loud inside the venue.

For what it's worth we feel that the live music should be stopped completely. I think that having something on NYE is reasonable but the restaurant is based in an otherwise-quiet residential area - it's not exactly the city centre. The restaurant has glass walls which seem to transfer the inside noise much more than a stone wall, and it seems to echo around the square. When we purchased our house there were no signs that they were planning to become a live music venue, and we don't feel like that was something we should reasonably expect to happen. We're also concerned that, by putting on live music on any kind of regular schedule, they are negatively effecting the value of our property and the other properties in the immediate area. I'm not sure if that's something that you would take into consideration as it doesn't strictly come under "environmental health", but I feel that it's something worth mentioning with regards to the license review.