

SEIEH1 - SDC Environmental Protection

28/04/16

I refer to the above licensing application which has been passed to this team for comment.

Unfortunately I have been unable to obtain additional information from the applicant to assist me in determining this application. I have therefore made my comments based on the information which has been supplied in the event management plan.

It is my considered opinion that at present the applicant has not provided sufficient information to demonstrate that noise controls before 23:00 (65db LAeq, 15 min at 1m from the façade of the nearest noise sensitive property & C-Weighted limit of up to 70dB in either 63Hz or 125Hz octave frequency band at 2 km) are achievable. This event is very large and comprises multiple noise sources which have in my view not been adequately assessed. I am concerned that once these multiple noise sources are accounted for, the proposed noise standards will not be achievable whilst providing a satisfactory experience to event attendees.

If the applicant is able to demonstrate that the proposed control is achievable, this music noise level would be in accordance with the Code of Practice on Environmental Noise Control at Concerts and therefore in the view of Environmental Health would be acceptable. It should however be noted that this level may still give rise to complaints from residents as noise could be considered intrusive by those living in the vicinity of the event and bass may be audible at considerable distance.

After 23:00 until 05:00 the applicant has proposed a noise limit of 45dB LAeq, 15 min at 1m from the façade of the nearest noise sensitive property. The Code of Practice suggests that after 23:00 the music noise level should be inaudible inside the nearest residential property with a window open for ventilation.

I do not consider that the music noise level after 23:00 proposed by the applicant will be sufficiently low for the event to be inaudible (having consideration to the very low night time noise levels in this location) and therefore the applicant has not demonstrated compliance with the current code of practice. Noise is generally considered to be inaudible when it is at a suitably low level such that it is not recognisable as emanating from the source in question, and it does not alter the perception of the ambient noise environment that would prevail in the absence of the source in question. The Environmental Health Team consider that an appropriate music noise level after 23:00 should not exceed the typical LA90 (background noise level) for the area between 02:00 and 04:00. However, as

the area in which the event is proposed is very quiet, I am concerned that the applicant will not be able to achieve such music noise levels at this time whilst maintaining a satisfactory experience for attendees.

In addition to the above, it would be expected that nearby residents will be affected by crowd noise, particularly shouting, cheering, singing and clapping during the event. I do not consider that there are any appropriate controls which could be implemented to mitigate this issue. I have particular concerns about the impact of this noise after 23:00 and consequently, I do not feel that it is appropriate for the main outdoor stages to continue in use after 23:00.

With consideration to the comments above, I do not consider that the applicant has demonstrated that the proposed event will sufficiently controlled to ensure the prevention of nuisance? and therefore I wish to object to this application.

NC