



Noise impact assessment: use of rear courtyard
and operational management policies
113 Holloway Road, London, N7 8LT

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On behalf of: Odette Gibson
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Executive summary

An assessment of the impact of noise from the use of a rear courtyard at 113 Holloway Road has been carried out. The site has previously been operated as a bar and attracted complaints from residents. The proposal is to operate a members-only club with a rigorous set of operational procedures in place to control noise.

Calculations have been made to demonstrate if the proposed activity in the courtyard is likely to impact on local residential amenity. Operational procedures to manage noise are presented at the end of the report.

The proposed operation of the premises is unlikely to adversely impact on residents because this is a dedicated members-only club with a focus on providing a community hub for the members. It is not a music-led and alcohol-led public bar and therefore has a lower impact on the local area because of the additional controls over members.

Given this location, proposed style of operation, proposed controls and willingness to take on board further controls if necessary it is my professional opinion that the operation of a members-club until 02:00hrs will not result in a public nuisance at this location as the controlled activities within the site and gradual dispersal of members from the club onto the Holloway Road would not increase average noise levels in the area.

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1.0 Qualifications and experience

- 1.1 My name is Richard Vivian. I am a Director and the Principal Acoustic Consultant at Big Sky Acoustics Ltd. Big Sky Acoustics Ltd is an independent acoustic consultancy that is engaged by local authorities, private companies, public companies and individuals to provide advice on the assessment and control of noise.
- 1.2 I have a Bachelor of Engineering Degree with Honours from Kingston University, I am a Member of the Institution of Engineering & Technology, the Institute of Acoustics, the Audio Engineering Society and the Institute of Licensing.
- 1.3 I have over twenty-five years of experience in the acoustics industry and have been involved in precision acoustic measurement and assessment throughout my career. My professional experience has included the assessment of noise in connection with planning, licensing and environmental protection relating to sites throughout the UK.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 Big Sky Acoustics Ltd was instructed by Gareth Hughes of Keystone Law, acting on behalf of Odette Gibson, to carry out an assessment of the noise arising from the proposed use of the basement and ground floor of 113 Holloway Road as a private members club.
- 2.2 Odette Gibson is a qualified accountant with her own practice and several years' experience in the licensing trade. She and her son have successfully run the premises known as Titania Soho in the City of Westminster without any cause for complaint from the Metropolitan Police and the Local Authority. Titania was a well-run social club for lesbian women which operated without incident for several years.
- 2.3 The proposal is for a membership-only social club with a database of members. They will only be able to gain entry to the premises by the use of a card key. There will be no entrance to non-members straight from the street. In order to uphold the safety of the members it is important they are kept within the confines of the premises rather than discharged onto the public highway to smoke. Therefore the application site, with a secure rear courtyard, is eminently suitable.
- 2.4 A glossary of acoustical terms used in this report is provided in Appendix A.
- 2.5 All sound pressure levels in this report are given in dB re: 20 μ Pa.

3.0 Site and surrounding area

- 3.1 The location of the site is shown in Appendix B.
- 3.2 The noise climate in the area is characterised by substantial road noise due to traffic on the A1 Holloway Road. Holloway Road is a red route. The premises is 300m from Highbury & Islington Station and the area is well served by public transport including 24-hour/night buses.
- 3.3 There is existing mechanical plant (and associated plant noise) to the rear of many of the properties along Holloway Road, This can be seen as clearly visible extract ducts usually associated with commercial kitchens, and air conditioning outdoor units.

- 3.4 It is important when assessing the impact of noise from an individual premises in an area that the concept of *additional* noise associated with the new activity of that premises is taken into account. The incremental change to noise levels caused by the normal operation of a members club in an area where there is already established noise and activity could be small or undetectable if it is masked by the existing noise in the area.
- 3.5 It is also a consideration that a bona-fide members club in the area can reduce other anti-social behaviour, litter and crime as the operation of the club seeks to eliminate this type of activity from the immediate area outside the premises for the benefit and safety of their own members and employees. This is achieved through good lighting, CCTV coverage, litter removal and a presence of professional personnel who will be able to observe and record all activity in the immediate area.

4.0 Criteria

Licensing Act 2003

- 4.1 Islington Council has a duty under the Licensing Act 2003 to determine its policy with respect to the exercise of its licensing functions and to publish a statement of that policy.
- 4.2 The council's aim is to promote the four licensing objectives:
- The prevention of crime and disorder
 - Public safety
 - The prevent of public nuisance
 - The protection of children from harm

Other relevant legislation

- 4.3 The Environmental Protection Act 1990 part III deals with statutory nuisance which includes noise. This Act allows steps to be taken to investigate any complaints which may then result in the issuing of an abatement notice and a subsequent prosecution of any breach of the notice. A statutory nuisance is a material interference that is prejudicial to health or a nuisance.
- 4.4 The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 deals with many of the problems affecting the quality of the local environment and provides local authorities with more effective powers and tools to tackle poor environmental quality and anti-social behaviour in relation to litter, graffiti, waste and noise.

British Standard 8233

- 4.5 BS8233:2014 states that for steady external noise sources, it is desirable that the internal ambient noise level in dwellings does not exceed the guideline values in Table 4 of the standard as shown below.

Activity	Location	07:00 to 23:00	23:00 to 07:00
Resting	Living room	35 dB $L_{Aeq,16hour}$	-
Dining	Dining room/area	40 dB $L_{Aeq,16hour}$	-
Sleeping (daytime resting)	Bedroom	35 dB $L_{Aeq,16hour}$	30dB $L_{Aeq,8hour}$

Figure 1: Indoor ambient noise levels for dwellings (from BS8233 Table 4)

World Health Organisation

- 4.6 Guidance on maximum noise levels is given by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in a report entitled 'Guidelines for Community Noise'¹. This report states that to avoid negative effects on sleep, the equivalent continuous internal sound pressure level during the sleeping period should not exceed 30 dB L_{Aeq} . If the noise is not continuous, sleep disturbance has an improved correlation with maximum noise levels and effects have been observed at 45 dB L_{Amax} internally. It goes on to recommend that, at night, noise levels outside dwellings should not exceed 45 dB L_{Aeq} and maximum noise levels should not exceed 60 dB L_{Amax} so that people may sleep with bedroom windows partially open.
- 4.7 The WHO guidelines also state that to protect the majority of people from being seriously annoyed during the daytime, the sound pressure level on balconies, terraces and outdoor living areas should not exceed 55 dB L_{Aeq} for a steady continuous noise.
- 4.8 However, in a review of health effect based noise assessment methods undertaken for the DETR and undertaken jointly by the NPL and Southampton University², it is noted that: *"Perhaps the main weakness of both WHO-inspired documents is that they fail to consider the practicality of actually being able to achieve any of the stated guideline values"*. According to the report transgression of the WHO guideline values does not necessarily imply significant noise impact and indeed, it may be that significant impacts do not occur until much higher degrees of noise exposure are reached. The report states: *"While in an ideal world it may be desirable for none of these effects to occur, in practice a certain amount of noise is inevitable in any modern industrialised society. Perhaps the main weakness of both WHO-inspired documents is that they fail to consider the practicality of actually being able to achieve any of the stated guideline values. It is important to make clear that ...exceedences do not necessarily imply an over-riding need for noise control, merely that the relative advantages and disadvantages of noise control action should be weighed in the balance. It is all a question of balance and mere exceedence of the WHO guidelines just starts to tip the scales."*
- 4.9 A noise incidence study was undertaken by the Building Research Establishment in 2000 and was published in 2002³. This study indicated that approximately 55% of the population in England and Wales are exposed to noise levels above 55 dB L_{Aeq} during the daytime. This study is considered to further support the findings of the DETR study and reinforce the apparent weakness of the WHO recommendations.
- 4.10 It is relevant to note that the WHO report has not been adopted into UK legislation or formal guidance; hence it remains a source of information reflecting a high level of health care with respect to noise, rather than a standard to be rigidly applied. The guideline values in the WHO report give the lowest threshold noise levels below which the occurrence rates of particular effects can be assumed to be negligible.

Operational objectives

- 4.11 Odette Gibson is keen to promote good relationships with all commercial and residential neighbours. Therefore, in addition to all statutory obligations, it is a

¹ World Health Organisation. Guidelines for Community Noise, 2000

² Porter N D, Flindell I H and Berry B F. NPL Report CMAM 16, Health Effect Based Noise Assessment Methods: A Review and Feasibility Study, DETR, 1998

³ DEFRA. The National Noise Incidence Study 2000/2001, 2002

primary operational objective that noise from the normal operation of the members club does not have a detrimental impact on any neighbouring properties.

- 4.12 A comprehensive Operational Management Strategy including a Noise Management Policy (see Appendix C) and a Dispersal Policy (see Appendix D) will be implemented at the premises.

5.0 The need for noise conditions on a premises licence

- 5.1 The guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 is clear in its general principles (Para 1.16) that "*[licence conditions] should not duplicate other statutory requirements or other duties or responsibilities placed on the employer by other legislation*". Therefore if the objective of the prevention of public nuisance is satisfactorily upheld because there already exist tests of nuisance through The Environmental Protection Act 1990; The Noise Act 1996; and The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, then additional conditions on a premises licence that merely duplicates these statutory requirements would not be necessary according to Home Office guidance.

6.0 Containment of music noise within the building

- 6.1 This is not a music-led operation and foreground music will be contained in the basement area. A high quality system that is optimally configured will sound dynamic and more involving to customers than a low quality system that is poorly set up. Low grade music systems tend to be operated at a higher level in an attempt by operators to make the system sound more involving. The result is poor quality sound and a higher risk of music noise breakout.
- 6.2 Consideration should be given to directivity of loudspeakers. Location and directivity characteristics of loudspeakers should be selected to achieve even dispersion without overlapping from multiple sources.
- 6.3 Crossover points to wall mounted mid-high loudspeakers should be >130Hz.
- 6.4 If dedicated bass loudspeakers are to be used multiple locations of bass speakers should be avoided, ideally placing all bass loudspeakers in one or two locations. Bass loudspeakers should be fed with a mono signal.
- 6.5 All signal processing equipment should be secured in a locked room/rack to restrict unauthorised adjustment of controls. It is good practice when setting up a system that amplifier gains should either be set to maximum, with the gain controlled upstream in system processing equipment, or if signal quality issues dictate using the maximum dynamic range of the signal processing equipment (a common design approach when using DSP controllers) then amplifier gain controls should be secured behind tamper-proof panels. All other positive gain controls should be behind tamper-proof covers or, in the case of dsp-based system controller, protected by a security password.
- 6.6 Once installed the sound system should be periodically checked to ensure that the maximum operating level is not likely to cause a nuisance at the nearest noise sensitive property. Assessment should be carried out, wherever possible, from the nearest noise sensitive property itself at a time when ambient noise is at its lowest (but within normal operating hours of the members club).

- 6.7 In summary, the sound system must be installed and operated to efficiently reproduce sound in the internal customer areas without causing excessive noise elsewhere in the building. Correct speaker locations, fixing methods and system configuration (crossover points, limiter settings, and system equalisation) can achieve high-quality sound without causing excessive noise breakout to other properties. A dedicated limiter system may not be required if a suitable system controller is programmed with compression/limiting/gain functions to accurately restrict maximum sound level.

7.0 Predicted noise of members using outside spaces

- 7.1 The outside space consists of a courtyard bounded on four sides by the building itself and substantial masonry walls at a height of 2.5m or greater. Canopies are currently provided as smoking shelters and these will be upgraded. It is proposed that this will be a break-out space with controlled numbers and that the use of the area will be supervised.
- 7.2 In order to assist in the understanding of the noise levels produced by people using outdoor areas it is important to understand the level of the noise source (i.e. people talking) and how that noise level increases as the number of people talking increases. Referring to data held in our own library; normal conversation is typically in the range of 55-60dBA when measured at 1 metre. In assessing for a worst-case condition I have considered a maximum capacity group of 30 members in the courtyard. In normal conversation no more than 50% of them would be talking as there will be at least one listener for each talker.
- 7.3 If we consider people to be talking at the upper end of the normal speaking range, and look at the scenario when they are all engaged in loud conversation and are therefore talking concurrently at 60dBA then in order to calculate the total noise level we need to logarithmically sum 15 incoherent noise sources of 60dB each using the following formula:

$$\Sigma = 10 \log \left(n \times 10^{\left(\frac{60}{10}\right)} \right)$$

where n is the number of people talking

- 7.4 The formula above gives a value for a total sound pressure level for a group of 30 people as 71.8dB. It is important to remember that this is a worst-case theoretical value, when 50% of the people are talking both simultaneously and loudly. In reality the act of smoking (or eating or drinking) and general lulls in conversation, and the fact there may be one talker to many listeners in some conversation groups mean that less than 50% of an average group will normally be talking simultaneously.
- 7.5 I have also observed that groups in close proximity to each other talk with more hushed voices than groups of people spread out in, for example, a pub beer garden with larger spacing between talker and listener across tables. Similarly the nature of a members club is to encourage more hushed voices than a more public space.

- 7.6 We hold an extensive library of measurement data for the area and average noise levels are typically around 55-60dB L_{A90} at locations near to roads but away from dominant plant noise.
- 7.7 Attenuation due to separation distance from courtyard to potential receptors:
- | | | |
|--|---|-------------|
| Noise level at source (a group of 30 people) | = | 72dB |
| Distance attenuation (10 metres) | = | 20dB |
| Attenuation due to physical obstructions | = | <u>12dB</u> |
| Resultant noise at rear façade | = | <u>40dB</u> |
- 7.8 In calculating distance attenuation, the noise of people talking is assumed to be a number of discreet point sources and therefore is attenuated by 6dB with each doubling of distance. I have taken the worst case noise level for a group of 30 people in loud conversation, and the least attenuation provided by one simple barrier and no other obstructions of line of sight to a façade at a separation distance of 10 metres.
- 7.9 This predicted worst case noise level of 40dB is considerably below background noise levels at this location.
- 7.10 This noise level is calculated for the rear façade of the buildings in Holloway Road. If the external façade is not amenity space (i.e. there are no balconies or other external amenity space) it is the noise level inside the properties in habitable rooms that becomes the most relevant assessment factor. Sound is attenuated by a typical window open for ventilation by a further 10-15dB.
- 7.11 Another consideration for members leaving premises late at night is the use of cars or taxis. Average traffic flow on Holloway Road remains high during the proposed operating hours.
- 7.12 When assessing noise from cars or taxis collecting people maximum noise levels may arise from a car door being closed. Data from similar sites (measured by ourselves and held at our office) indicates that values from 65 dB L_{Amax} (Mercedes C-Class, normal close) to 70 dB L_{Amax} (slam) as measured at 5m are typical.
- 7.13 The predicted internal noise level from a car door being closed when extrapolated to a first floor window would be approximately 59 dB L_{Amax} . This value is below the highly stringent WHO guidance value⁴ of 60 dB L_{Amax} and would result in internal levels, even with a window open, of 44-49 dB L_{Amax} . Internal levels are below the more real-world Griefahn⁵ internal level criterion of 55 dB L_{Amax} .
- 7.14 To summarise, the noise arising from car doors are not likely to generate any loss of amenity even if there were a flat directly above the car door being slammed at first floor level with clear line of sight and with a window open. The reality is this noise source is substantially masked by the existing noise levels in the street. Additionally it is understood that the member profile for the proposed club favours the use of public transport as the most popular way of arriving at and departing from the club.
- 7.15 Any new residential developments in the area will be required to take into account the existing noise climate in the area and will therefore have to provide suitable internal noise levels for normal living. This is typically achieved with modern

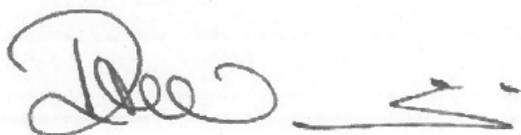
⁴ World Health Organisation. Guidelines for Community Noise, 2000.

⁵ Griefahn, B "Präventivmedizinische Vorschläge für den nächtlichen Schallschutz" Zeitschrift für Lärmbekämpfung 37 (1990) 7-14.

glazing and ventilation systems. Inside a residential property all external noise sources are attenuated by the glazing, by the distance from the noise source to the window, and by any physical obstruction of clear line of sight to the noise source.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 Big Sky Acoustics Ltd was instructed by Gareth Hughes of Keystone Law, acting on behalf of Odette Gibson, to carry out an assessment of the noise arising from the proposed use of the basement and ground floor of 113 Holloway Road as a private members club.
- 8.2 This assessment makes reference to the Licensing Act 2003, the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, BS8233, the WHO, and operational objectives of the applicant. Noise prediction calculations indicate that the controlled use of the courtyard will not impact on residents.
- 8.3 The premises is at busy location with established existing noise levels due to road traffic, pedestrians and plant.
- 8.4 Locating a bar at busy location with significant road traffic noise advantageously means good transport links to disperse patrons at the end of the evening.
- 8.5 Recommendations for best practice operational procedures relating to noise at the premises have been made.
- 8.6 Noise breakout from any sound system and other activities inside the premises is eliminated by the sound system controls and physical structure of the building.
- 8.7 Given this location, proposed style of operation, proposed controls and willingness to take on board further controls if necessary it is my professional opinion that the operation of a members-club until 02:00hrs will not result in a public nuisance at this location as the controlled activities within the site and dispersal of patrons from the club onto the Holloway Road would not increase average noise levels in the area.



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Appendix A - Terminology

Sound Pressure Level and the decibel (dB)

A sound wave is a small fluctuation of atmospheric pressure. The human ear responds to these variations in pressure, producing the sensation of hearing. The ear can detect a very wide range of pressure variations. In order to cope with this wide range of pressure variations, a logarithmic scale is used to convert the values into manageable numbers. Although it might seem unusual to use a logarithmic scale to measure a physical phenomenon, it has been found that human hearing also responds to sound in an approximately logarithmic fashion. The dB (decibel) is the logarithmic unit used to describe sound (or noise) levels. The usual range of sound pressure levels is from 0 dB (threshold of hearing) to 140 dB (threshold of pain).

Frequency and Hertz (Hz)

As well as the loudness of a sound, the frequency content of a sound is also very important. Frequency is a measure of the rate of fluctuation of a sound wave. The unit used is cycles per second, or hertz (Hz). Sometimes large frequency values are written as kilohertz (kHz), where 1 kHz = 1000 Hz. Young people with normal hearing can hear frequencies in the range 20 Hz to 20,000 Hz. However, the upper frequency limit gradually reduces as a person gets older.

A-weighting

The ear does not respond equally to sound at all frequencies. It is less sensitive to sound at low and very high frequencies, compared with the frequencies in between. Therefore, when measuring a sound made up of different frequencies, it is often useful to 'weight' each frequency appropriately, so that the measurement correlates better with what a person would actually hear. This is usually achieved by using an electronic filter called the 'A' weighting, which is built into sound level meters. Noise levels measured using the 'A' weighting are denoted dBA. A change of 3dBA is the minimum perceptible under normal everyday conditions, and a change of 10dBA corresponds roughly to doubling or halving the loudness of sound.

C-weighting

The C-weighting curve has a broader spectrum than the A-weighting curve and includes low frequencies (bass) so it can be a more useful indicator of changes to bass levels in amplified music systems.

Noise Indices

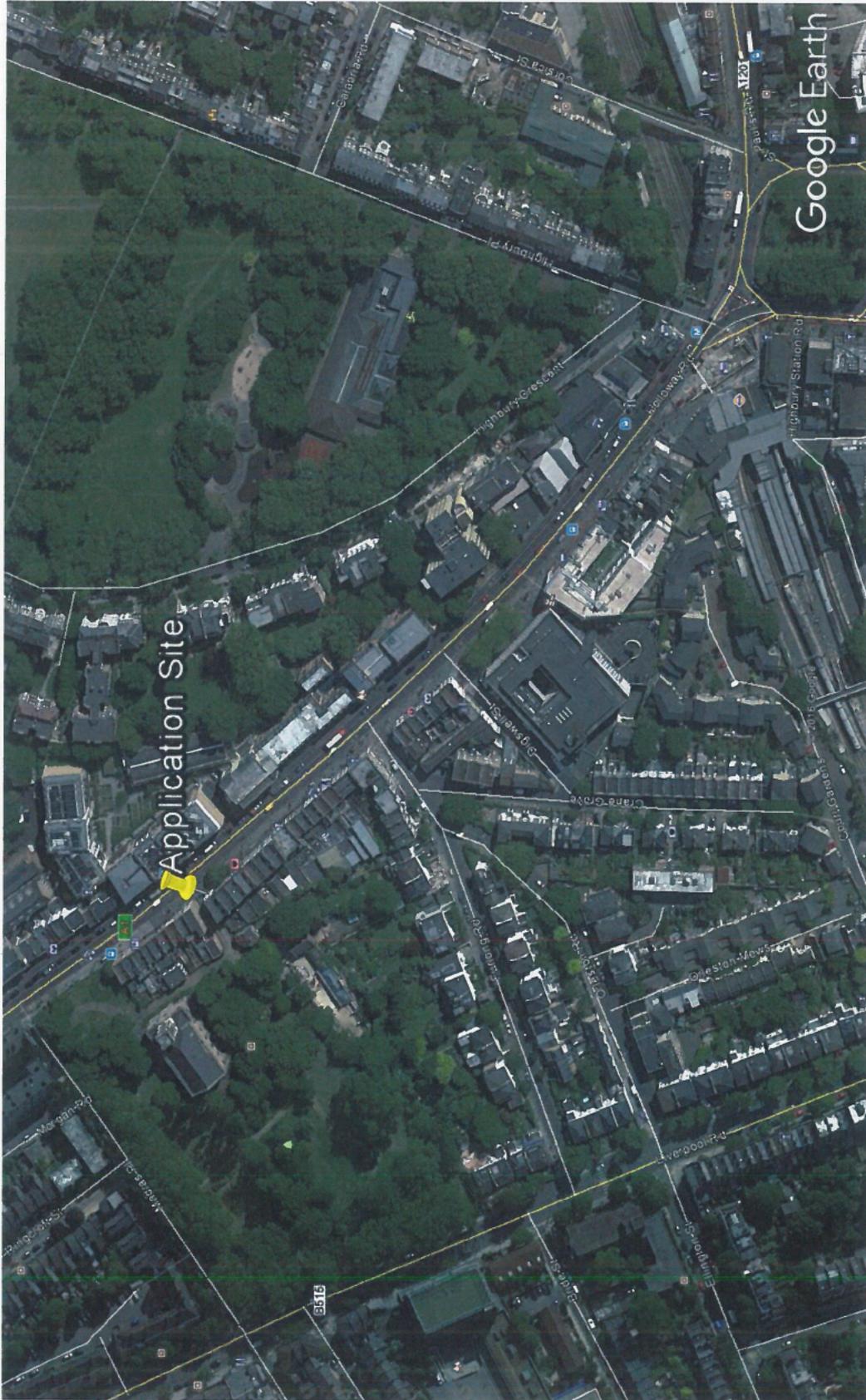
When a noise level is constant and does not fluctuate over time, it can be described adequately by measuring the dB level. However, when the noise level varies with time, the measured dB level will vary as well. In this case it is therefore not possible to represent the noise level with a simple dB value. In order to describe noise where the level is continuously varying, a number of other indices are used. The indices used in this report are described below.

- L_{eq}** The equivalent continuous sound pressure level which is normally used to measure intermittent noise. It is defined as the equivalent steady noise level that would contain the same acoustic energy as the varying noise. Because the averaging process used is logarithmic the L_{eq} is dominated by the higher noise levels measured.
- L_{Aeq}** The A-weighted equivalent continuous sound pressure level. This is increasingly being used as the preferred parameter for all forms of environmental noise.
- L_{Ceq}** The C-weighted equivalent continuous sound pressure level includes low frequencies and is used for assessment of amplified music systems.
- L_{Amax}** is the maximum A-weighted sound pressure level during the monitoring period. If fast-weighted it is averaged over 125 ms, and if slow-weighted it is averaged over 1 second. Fast weighted measurements are therefore higher for typical time-varying sources than slow-weighted measurements.
- L_{A90}** is the A-weighted sound pressure level exceeded for 90% of the time period. The L_{A90} is used as a measure of background noise.

Example noise levels:

Source/Activity	Indicative noise level dBA
Threshold of pain	140
Police siren at 1m	130
Chainsaw at 1m	110
Live music	96-108
Symphony orchestra, 3m	102
Nightclub	94-104
Lawnmower	90
Heavy traffic	82
Vacuum cleaner	75
Ordinary conversation	60
Car at 40 mph at 100m	55
Rural ambient	35
Quiet bedroom	30
Watch ticking	20

Appendix B - Site location



Appendix C - Noise Management Policy

We operate a considerate business. We aim to manage all noise from our club so that we do not disturb people resting and sleeping in their homes. There are many other licensed premises in the area and these may create noise but this is no reason why our operation should not be rigorously controlled so that any noise we or our members make is kept to an absolute minimum. We therefore have a comprehensive approach to managing noise from our premises and from the area outside our premises.

The following points are critical to our noise management policy and are used in conjunction with our end of evening dispersal policy:

- We will ensure that noise emanating from our premises will not cause a nuisance at nearby residential properties.
- The entrance door is supervised and kept closed except for ingress and egress.
- Doors in regular use will be fitted with soft closers and these will be adjusted to ensure that doors do not slam.
- Arrangements are in place to ensure that deliveries, collections and operational servicing are carried out between 07.00-23.00hrs, except where access at other times is unavoidable and specific procedures are in place to limit disturbance.
- Empty bottles will be placed in containers/bags inside the premises to minimise handling noise. No empty bottles will be tipped or thrown into outside storage receptacles after 23:00hrs.
- Refuse collections are made at the times allocated for the street. We will ensure that waste is correctly packaged and can be removed quickly and efficiently.
- Our sound system is limited so that a pre-set maximum noise level may not be exceeded.
- Members using the courtyard for smoking will be supervised by us and the maximum number of smokers will be controlled.
- Any glass or bottles in the immediate vicinity of the premises will be cleared from street furniture, walls, pavements and gutters then safely disposed of. Bottles and glasses that do not originate from our premises will also be cleared as we make an effort to keep the area tidy and safe.
- We are proud of our building and the area we work in. We will endeavour to keep the area clean and attractive for our members and our neighbours. This means dealing with debris that may have nothing to do with us, but in the interests of making this a better area we will still clear it up.

We will constantly review our Noise Management Policy and respond quickly to the needs of our neighbours.

Appendix D - Dispersal Policy

We will employ best practice to ensure that the normal operation of the club does not have a negative impact on residents when our members, and our employees, leave the area. In order to ensure that members behave in an ordered and responsible manner as they leave the premises it is important that they have been well-managed during the time leading up to their departure. Therefore our employees are trained in customer management skills and we will be calm and polite as they leave. There are further measures that we will take that can impact positively on our members behaviour after they have left and they are not directly under our control:

- Onward transport information will be provided on-line and in the premises.
- At the exit doors a prominent and clear notice will be displayed asking members to be considerate to local residents by leaving the premises and the area quietly.
- Internal noise levels will be reduced during the last 30 minutes of trading and the music will become more down-tempo ensuring a gradual exit of remaining members as the evening winds down. Lighting levels will be increased during the last 30 minutes of trading to coincide with the music wind-down policy.
- There will be clearly signed toilet facilities in the building which will be available for members at all times. Employee training includes the provision that any member in the process of leaving the premises that requests re-admission to use the toilets is allowed to do so.
- The entrance doors are supervised and are kept closed except for ingress and egress. All employees are given appropriate instructions and training to encourage members to leave the premises and the area quietly.
- Door supervision will continue until at least 30 minutes after closing time or until all members have dispersed. Door supervisors will request that any members leaving do not wait outside the premises and will direct them towards onward transport locations.
- At the end of the shift employees will say goodbye to each other inside the premises and arrange for lifts or taxis to collect them at a convenient and safe stopping point away from residential properties.
- We will attach the utmost importance to the careful investigation and prompt resolution of any complaint made in respect of the running of the premises. Particular emphasis will be placed on building and maintaining close links with local residents including hosting meetings where necessary to allow our neighbours to raise any issues and for those issues to be quickly resolved. The telephone number of the premises and senior management will be provided to all our immediate residential neighbours. We will constantly review our Dispersal Policy and respond quickly to the needs of our neighbours.

Mayor's Office

City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA
Switchboard: 020 7983 4000
Minicom: 020 7983 4458
Web: www.london.gov.uk

Licensing Service
London Borough of Islington
222 Upper Street
London
N1 1XR

Date: 31 May 2017

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Titania

I am writing in my capacity as the Mayor of London's Night Czar in support of Titania's application for a premises license.

As Night Czar, I work with the new Chair of the Mayor's Night Time Commission, local authorities, the night time industries, police, transport and other key agencies to develop London's night time offer. This crucial work brings tangible benefits for London's communities and economy.

In the capital, our vibrant and diverse night time economy and culture is recognised around the world, attracting domestic and international visitors. It is a key driver of the economic and cultural regeneration of town centres, worth £26.3bn to our economy and employing 700,000 people.

At a time when London's night time economy and culture is at risk, Titania's contribution would be valuable and significant. London has lost 50% of its nightclubs over the last ten years.

When it was based in Charing Cross Road, Titania was a well-established and popular club. The positive impact of night-time economy and culture businesses on the local economy is well evidenced, and I am sure that having Titania in the Holloway Road/Highbury & Islington area would bring positive benefits to the borough's economy and culture.

The Mayor and I also want to ensure that London is a city where minority communities are able to meet and socialise in a safe space, and where their heritage is protected. Many communities have museums to preserve their histories and educate others, like the Jewish Museum in Camden and the Black Cultural Archives in Brixton.

No such museum yet exists for the LGBT+ community whose heritage lies in largely informal social settings as opposed to established institutions and archives. In a year where homophobic hate crime in the capital has risen by 12% to over 2,000 incidents it is a matter of urgency that we support the capital's remaining gay venues.

A quarter of London's pubs have shut over the last ten years. At the same time, research by University College London (UCL) shows that London's LGBT+ nightlife spaces have also seen a recent intensity of closures. Particularly at risk are longstanding venues and those catering to minority groups, such as women. UCL's report can be read here: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/urbanlab/docs/LGBTQI_nightlife_in_London_from_1986_to_the_present_-_interim_findings.pdf. In light of this, I am very supportive of opportunities for new LGBT+ venues.

I hope that Islington's licensing team are able to grant Titania's application to enable the introduction of a new LGBT+ venue that can act as a catalyst for the local economy and the wider borough.

If my office can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Lamé". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above a small yellow rectangular mark.

Amy Lamé
Night Czar

cc Cllr Flora Williamson, Chair of Licensing Committee, London Borough of Islington

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Gareth Hughes](#)
Subject: In support of Titania receiving its operating license.
Date: 25 May 2017 08:27:04

Hi Gareth,

As an ex- Titania regular, I am writing to provide more information & an explanation of what Titania means to me, my friends & the support & social networks I belong to.

There is currently no safe & comfortable place for older Lesbian & Bisexual women to socialise freely.

The other bars in Soho which cater to women are aimed at a younger crowd, play loud music & don't have an environment where we can talk. Some of the men's gay (& bi & mswm) venues have women's areas but they tend to be hidden away often near toilets or facilities and generally less pleasant for those of us who want to have nicer venues.

It's noticeable in my own life that when I hang out with heterosexual friends we have wonderful venues and when I am with my gay friends the venues are less pleasant (and often smelly).

The easy solution would appear to be to go with gay friends to straight venues. However, that can end in disaster. Men hitting on a group of women who think we are saying we are gay because we are brushing them off, friends from ex-marriages or family of ex-husbands making homophobic remarks, being in a lesbian venue doesn't stop this, but it reduces the fear of its occurrence & allows those from religious or less accepting families & communities to have a night out and gain social support.

It's also a sign of the transitioning times that people my age and those from other cultures & countries still feel the need for safe spaces.

When I was younger, homosexuality was listed in the DSM as a mental illness. Marriage has only recently been legalised in the UK, but the message is still filtering through to families & communities. The changes that have come through recently don't erase the fear and memories. Women who went in the closet or married men, still need a place to go when they come out. It can take years to shake off their own self-judgement & feel safe in public.

Titania specifically provided a safe & comfortable place for older lesbian & bisexual women to meet & get social support to feel normal. It was more than just a bar, it offered people supporting the older lesbian community a place to meet - for singles groups, for black lesbian groups & for weightloss & healthy lifestyle groups.

Since its closure nothing has opened to move into this space & many women have become isolated or reduced to online socialising. Loneliness is an issue in our society & Titania offered a good solution to this for older lesbian & bisexual women.

I ask you to do everything you can to bring Titania back. And please contact me if I can do more to assist.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Gareth Hughes](#)
Subject: Titania Holloway
Date: 30 May 2017 19:37:38

Hi Gareth

I am a resident on Tollington Way off Holloway Road. I fully support this bars application, I think it would have a positive impact on the high street and is important from a diversity perspective. I do not think it would impact on noise.

I was unable to find the planning application online.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Gareth Hughes](#)
Subject: Support for Bar Titania
Date: 30 May 2017 20:35:00

Hi there Gareth,

I would like to add my vote of support for Bar Titania.

Bar Titania has provided a safe, supportive and valuable space for LGBTQ+ women in London, and I am very keen to re-visit once the new venue has been secured.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

TITANIA

SURVEY

We plan to reopen Titania Women's and Guest Bar, late of Charing Cross Road, at our new site of 113 Holloway Road; it is near Highbury and Islington roundabout. To enable us to sell alcohol, we are legally required to possess a premises license. We have applied for the license and have a hearing in June. There are however objections from local residents, they fear that the venue will create a noise issue, in connection with this application we should be obliged if you would please, help us by answering the following questions. Please circle your answer

What age range do you fall into 18-25

26-35

35+

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

Name...

Email address

This will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help

Deette Gibson



TITANIA

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18-25

26-35

35+

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

Name...

Email address

This will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help

[Handwritten signature]

TITANIA

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What age range do you fall into

18-25

26-35

35+

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

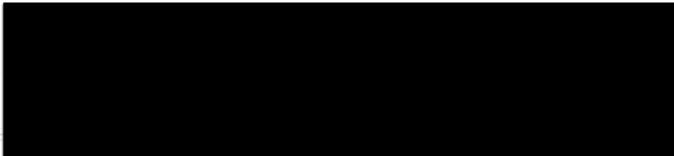
Tube and or Bus

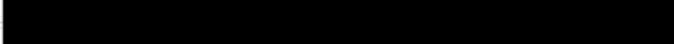
Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

Name: 

Email address: 

This will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help



TITANIA

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26-35

35+

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

Name

Email address.....

This will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help

Deirdre Gibson



TITANIA

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26 -35

35 +

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

TUBE

Name

Email address

This will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help

Odette Gibson



TITANIA

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What age range do you fall into 18- 25

26 -35

35 +

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

Name



Email address.....

This will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help

Odette Gibson

TITANIA

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What age range do you fall into

18-25

26-35

35+

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

Name

Email

This will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help

Deette Gibson



TITANIA

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What age range do you fall into 18- 25

26 -35

35 +

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

Name..

Email a

This will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help

Odette Gibson



TITANIA

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What age range do you fall into 18- 25

26 -35

35 +

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

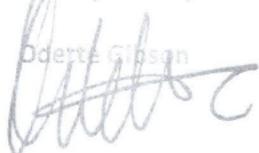
Name

Email

This will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help

Deirdre Gibson



TITANIA

SURVEY

We plan to reopen Titania Women's and Guest Bar, late of Charing Cross Road, at our new site of 203 Holloway Road; it is near Highbury and Islington roundabout. To enable us to sell alcohol we are legally required to possess a premises license. We have applied for the license and have a hearing in June. There are however objections from local residents, they fear that the venue will create a noise issue, in connection with this application we should be obliged if you would please, help us by answering the following questions. Please circle your answer

What age range do you fall into

18-25

26-35

35+

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

Name

Email

This will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help

Deena Gibson



TITANIA

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What age range do you fall into

18- 25

26 -35

35 +

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

NCP -

Name:

Email a

This will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help

Odette Gibson



TITANIA

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What age range do you fall into

18- 25

26 -35

35 +

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

Name

Email

This will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help

Deerte Gibson


TITANIA

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What age range do you fall into

18-25

26-35

35+

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

Name:

Email a

This will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help

Deette Gibson



TITANIA

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What age range do you fall into

18-25

26-35

35+

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

Name...

Email address

This will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help

Deirdre Gibson



TITANIA

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What age range do you fall into 18- 25

26 -35

35+

Do you visit LGBT venues Yes No

How do you travel to and from those venues Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

DONT DRIVE

Name

Email

This will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help

Dorette Gibson



TITANIA

SURVEY

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What age range do you fall into

18-25

26-35

35+

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and/or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

N/A

Name

Email

This will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help



TITANIA

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What age range do you fall into

18-25

26-35

35+

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

Name

Email

This will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help

Debbie



TITANIA

SURVEY

We plan to reopen Titania Women's and Guest Bar, late of Charing Cross Road, at our new site of 115 Holloway Road; it is near Highbury and Islington roundabout. To enable us to sell alcohol we are legally required to possess a premises license. We have applied for the license and have a hearing in June. There are however objections from local residents, they fear that the venue will create a noise issue, in connection with this application we should be obliged if you could please help us by answering the following questions. Please circle your answer

What age range do you fall into

18-25

26-35

35+

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

N/A

Name

Email

This will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help

Deena Singh



TITANIA

SURVEY

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What age range do you fall into

18-25

26-35

35+

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

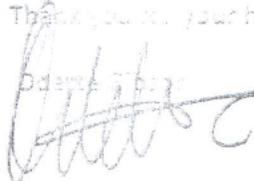
n/a

Name

Email address

This will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help

Deena Gibby


TITANIA

SURVEY

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What age range do you fall into

18-25

26-35

35+

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

Name

Email

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Thank you for your help



TITANIA

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What age range do you fall into

18-25

26-35

35+

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

Name: 

Email: 

This information will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help



TITANIA

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What age range do you fall into

18-25

26-35

35+

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

Name

Email

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Thank you for your help

Deena Green



TITANIA

SURVEY

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What age range do you fall into

18-25

26-35

35+

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

Name

Email

This

information will not be passed to any third party

Thank you for your help

Odette Taylor



TITANIA

SURVEY

We plan to reopen Titania Women's and Guest Bar, late of Charing Cross Road, at our new site of 113 Holloway Road; it is near Highbury and Islington roundabout. To enable us to sell alcohol, we are legally required to possess a premises license. We have applied for the license and have a hearing in June. There are however objections from local residents, they fear that the venue will create a noise issue, in connection with this application we should be obliged if you would please, help us by answering the following questions. Please circle your answer

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18-25

26-35

35+

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

Name

Email

This information will be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help

[Handwritten signature]

TITANIA

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What age range do you fall into

18- 25

26 -35

35 +

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

Name

Email address.....

This will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help

Deerte Gibson



TITANIA

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We plan to reopen Titania Women's and Guest Bar, late of Charing Cross Road, at our new site of 105 Holloway Road; it is near Highbury and Islington roundabout. To enable us to sell alcohol we are legally required to possess a premises license. We have applied for the license and have a hearing in June. There are however objections from local residents, they fear that the venue will create a noise issue, in connection with this application we should be obliged if you would please, help us by answering the following questions. Please circle your answer

What age range do you fall into

18-25

26-35

35+

Do you visit LGBT venues

Yes

No

How do you travel to and from those venues

Tube and or Bus

Taxi

Private Hire Vehicle- UBER/mini cab

By own or a friend's motor vehicle

If you use your own motor vehicle where would you normally park?

N/A

UBER

Name

Email

This will not be disclosed to any third party

Thank you for your help

Signature

