

ACOUSTIC TECHNICAL NOTE

Reference:	12473.ATN01.LSN.0
From:	██████████
Date:	27 February 2023
Project:	La Estacion 57
Subject:	Noise Limiter Setting

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Occupants of residential properties in proximity to the La Estacion 57 premises Camberwell Road, Southwark, London have previously made complaints with regard to noise break-out from the premises.

The operators of the venue have instructed RBA Acoustics to undertake an assessment of noise emissions from the premises to the adjacent properties. This included the setting of a noise limiter device such that music noise within the premises will not lead to unacceptable disturbance to residents.

2.0 HISTORIC INVOLVEMENT

RBA Acoustics were previously involved with this premises in 2010 (when it was known as D'Eclipse) and undertook assessments of noise issues associated with the venue when in operation. This led to a series of recommended mitigation works and attendance at a limiter setting exercise on 30 June 2010. As part of the limiter setting exercise, noise levels were set onto the system which were considered to not give rise to unacceptable noise levels within the D'Eclipse premises. For the sake of clarity, these are repeated below:

Table 1: 2010 Noise Limiter Setting Levels

Sound Pressure Level $L_{eq,2min}$ (dB) at Octave Band Centre Frequency (Hz)								Overall dBA
63	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	8k	
95	89	84	85	82	85	81	72	90

3.0 2023 INVOLVEMENT

Following recent resident complaints, RBA Acoustics liaised with representatives of London Borough of Southwark to agree an appropriate method of assessing noise transfer to the affected properties.

Unfortunately, due to difficulties in arranging access, an assessment of noise transfer during a trading period was not possible. However, it was agreed that access to the ██████ Floor flat ██████ the La Estacion premises could be given during a morning period on Saturday 25th February 2023. Although the premises were not trading, it was considered that this was a "best compromise" position to enable a limiter setting exercise to be undertaken in the timescales permitted.

Music was initially played through the in-house sound system at the maximum permissible volume. This was considered to be excessive and likely to cause noise disturbance and hence adjustments to the noise limiter setting were made.

I then gained access to the residential property which is considered to be the worst affected by music noise from La Estacion. The occupant of the flat noted that the music levels at that time were significantly lower

than he had experienced before (potentially as a result of the initial limiter setting adjustments). Subjectively, I considered the levels to be generally acceptable although marginally above those I would consider desirable given the late night operation of the premises. A subsequent adjustment was then made to the limiter setting within the premises which resulted in noise transfer to the residence being acceptable in my opinion.

It should be noted that although the measurements and limiter adjustment was undertaken during the daytime, the assessment position was the rear bedroom of the property and hence not affected by road traffic sources along Camberwell Road. The background noise levels in the absence of any music noise were measured at 27dBA which is 3dB below the WHO and British Standard guidelines indicating that this is indeed a quiet location.

Following the final adjustments to the noise limiter, the resultant levels were noted as follows:

Table 2: 2023 Noise Limiter Setting Levels

Sound Pressure Level $L_{eq,2min}$ (dB) at Octave Band Centre Frequency (Hz)								Overall dBA
63	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	8k	
94	84	82	91	89	85	80	77	92

As can be seen from comparison of the above levels with those detailed in Table 1, noise levels at the critical low frequencies (which reflect the degree of bass music noise transfer) are now set to levels lower than were determined during the 2010 limiter setting exercise.

It is also worth noting that noise break-out via the rear fire doors to the yard area at the rear of the premises was barely audible.

4.0 RESIDENT FEEDBACK

Following the limiter setting adjustment, I discussed the resultant noise levels with the occupant of the flat who suggested that this was a significant improvement to historic conditions. He did, however, note that this would only be possible to determine during a night-time period. We therefore agreed that he would send me a message during that nights trading of La Estacion in case noise levels were excessive and that I would then attend the flat to make further measurements. I did not receive any calls or messages on Saturday night which I believe reinforces the suggestion that noise levels at the current limitations are acceptable.

5.0 CONCLUSION

RBA Acoustics have undertaken a noise limiter setting exercise at the premises known as La Estacion 57, Camberwell Road.

Resultant noise transfer to the worst affected residential property was considered to be acceptable and the permitted levels within the La Estacion premises at the critical “bass frequencies” are lower than was determined during a similar exercise in 2010.

The occupant of the residential property did suggest that these levels were acceptable during our visit and did not make contact with RBA Acoustics (as had been suggested) during the subsequent Saturday night trading to highlight a noise issue.

It is therefore considered that the current noise limiter settings are acceptable and would not lead to noise nuisance being caused to nearby residents.