

Mardon, Sarah (Licensing)

From: Draper, Melanie (Env. Health)
Sent: 21 July 2014 14:58
To: Mardon, Sarah (Licensing)
Subject: Variation of premises licence at The Priory, St Neots

Importance: High

Sarah

I am in receipt of the application to vary the premises licence at The Priory.
The variation is to cease regulated entertainment at 03:00 on Friday into Saturday and Saturday into Sunday.
I would like to make a representation in relation to the public nuisance licensing objective in relation to noise.

However, I would suggest the following:

Should the licence be granted, within one month of that date a noise limiting device of a type approved by the Head of Community shall be fitted at the premises.

All disco and music amplification equipment used in the premises must only be connected to power sockets controlled by the noise limiting device.

The noise limiter shall be set and maintained at a level determined by the Council's Community Health Team. No changes to the operation of the noise limiter shall take place without the approval of the Head of Community.

Kind regards

Melanie Draper
Environmental Health Officer
01480 388297
melanie.draper@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Mardon, Sarah (Licensing)

From: Draper, Melanie (Env. Health)
Sent: 11 August 2014 13:27
To: Michelle Hazlewood
Cc: Mardon, Sarah (Licensing)
Subject: RE: Variation of Premises Licence: Priory, St. Neots.

Michelle

Thank you for the message.

Please would you confirm the noise limiting device to which you refer?

I understand the limiter that was installed on 15/11/12 with Toby Lewis and myself in attendance is now out of use.

Kind regards

Melanie Draper

Environmental Health Officer

01480 388297

melanie.draper@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

From: Sue McCourt [<mailto:smccourt@john-gaunt.co.uk>] **On Behalf Of** Michelle Hazlewood
Sent: 07 August 2014 09:21
To: Draper, Melanie (Env. Health)
Cc: Mardon, Sarah (Licensing)
Subject: Variation of Premises Licence: Priory, St. Neots.

Dear Sirs,

We refer to the representation raised by the Environmental Health Officer, Melanie Draper in connection with the application to extend hours of operation at the Priory.

A noise limiting device has in recent times been installed at the premises which is understood to be of a reputable nature, from a reputable manufacturer and fit for purpose in relation to management of noise levels. We can confirm that all music generated at the premises via disco amplification equipment is via the noise limiting device.

In view of the above we would consider that the first condition proposed by Environmental Health Officer is not required, the second condition is in principal agreed.

As to the third condition we would propose, that a mutually convenient time and date be set for the Environmental Health Officer to attend site and verify the current settings.

We await to hear from you in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

Michelle Hazlewood

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Mardon, Sarah (Licensing)

From: Draper, Melanie (Env. Health)
Sent: 13 August 2014 10:35
To: Michelle Hazlewood
Cc: Lewis, Toby (Env Health); Mardon, Sarah (Licensing)
Subject: Priory, St Neots

Michelle

Thank you for the message.

I have carried out some research regarding the equipment installed at The Priory as mentioned in your email and have found this, see link:

<http://www.allen-heath.com/ahproducts/idr-8-2/>

Please confirm whether this is the type of equipment installed at The Priory.

If so, according to the manufacturer, this is not a noise limiter but a sound mixer.

I am happy to discuss the re-installation of the previous limiter or installation of a new limiter and to meet on site to set levels, however, it is likely there will be a charge for this.

I can confirm that the Council has received noise complaints since the previously installed noise limiter was removed, so I would question whether the equipment currently installed is fit for purpose as a noise limiter.

Kind regards

Melanie Draper

Environmental Health Officer

01480 388297

melanie.draper@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Mardon, Sarah (Licensing)

From: Michelle Hazlewood <MHazlewood@john-gaunt.co.uk>
Sent: 15 August 2014 15:06
To: Draper, Melanie (Env. Health); Mardon, Sarah (Licensing)
Cc: Keith Palmer; EPOS - Priory W91876
Subject: Priory St Neots
Attachments: Allen&HeathiDR8AudioControllerSystem0814.pdf

Melanie

Further to our recent correspondence and your query as to the limiting device I have liaised with the acoustician who set up the system and they have commented as follows:-

- i) The previous limiter system that was fitted at the Priory was a basic on-off limiter, which used a Type 3 microphone on the front panel to provide the control of noise/volume. This noise input could have been from a customer shouting or music, the system did not discriminate. There was no control of frequency, so in theory with the overall 'A' weighted volume reduced, a DJ could wind up the bass ie low frequencies and not trigger the limiter. As we all know in most noise complaint cases it is the bass transfer that is the causal problem. Notwithstanding the above limitations a limiter of the type used would shut off the PA speakers instantly, which could create significant damage to the expensive sound system and, most importantly upset customers in a rather unnecessary way. I have been at venues when this has happened and shutting off music in this way can cause customer behavioural issues. Such systems are out of date and have a very limited application, of which this situation is not one.
- ii) The Allen & Heath iDR-8 system is a modern digital in-line control system. For the application used at the Priory it is set up via a computer and the individual set up stored in patches only accessed by the separate application computer (usually a laptop). The EHO would be best referencing the iDR-8 User Manual. Pages 6 and 12 offer guidance on the above comments. I have attached a copy of the Manual for your attention. It is fair to say that system has many functions, but level and frequency control are a basic feature of the system. The great benefit is the iDR-8 system can be crafted to the venue requirements and zoned to control music in individual areas of the venue. These files are saved and held on the Engineers laptop. This should give confidence of the set up to the Council and the site management on the way the system is operating.
- iii) In the case of the Priory we were able to control of just the volume on the Dance Floor, but the frequencies played, particularly the bass frequencies. DJs are not able to input into the system or able to override it.

Further that the system is tamperproof. For your purposes I attach the manual .

Should you wish to see the system inaction Martin the DPS and his Area Manager Keith Freeman can be at site on Thursday and I would be pleased to arrange for you to meet them.

You refer to complaints since last year, we have corresponded on this point in the past and you have never produced detail of the allegations. In deed I believe you indicated that they had to be investigated. A substantial amount of time has lapsed since then and we have heard nothing further from you on the point. We could only therefore assume that they were unsubstantiated.

Please let me know your thoughts and if you wish to visit site.

Regards

Michelle Hazlewood
0114 266 8664
07801 924 301

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