

## Sound Monitoring for Barbican Cinemas 2 and 3 - Statement for Residents

### 1. Statement of Principle:

The Centre Management acknowledges that Cinemas 2 and 3 are sited within a residential estate and strives to foster good relations with its neighbours. As part of its normal operation, the Centre will take all reasonable precautions to avoid disturbing residents and will actively seek to prevent activities which may cause public nuisance or have an adverse effect on the local community.

When the new cinemas were first proposed in 2010 the Centre Management made it clear that if the noise from the new Cinemas were to penetrate into their flats, it would result in Environmental Health changing the cinemas' operation to remove the nuisance. It is very clearly in the interests of the City of London and the Barbican Centre to avoid this situation occurring and therefore very strong (insurance backed) guarantees have been obtained from contractors that there will not be a problem.

The double height void within the exhibition halls enabled sound protection to be built in from scratch.

Throughout construction detailed testing of the materials and construction technique, was carried out in order to verify the acoustic containment performance of what was being proposed. Thorough testing was also carried out upon completion.

In addition the sound in the cinemas was given a preset limit in order to manage noise emissions from the cinema. This limit was set by testing loud noise from the cinemas within residents' flats and then lowering the volume so that it could no longer be heard (in accordance with the method set out in an 'Acoustic Design Note' document provided by the sound designers to meet the planning condition on noise\*). The sound in the cinemas is then monitored against this preset limit.

### 2. How Sound Monitoring operates:

Sound inside the cinema auditorium spaces is monitored by embedded sensors and decibel readings are relayed in real time via a dedicated server to a remote logging station run by the acoustic specialists who supplied the equipment and designed the installation. Records of sound levels recorded can be accessed by the Barbican cinema technical specialist at any time via their web-link.

Representatives of the neighbouring house groups or of the Barbican Association may access information drawn from the digital sound level records by submitting a request to Jo Daly in the Managing Director's office, such requests to be reasonable.

### 3. What to do in case of sound breakout:

As long as there is a screening taking place a Centre Manager will be on duty.

If any resident is disturbed by noise emanating from the cinema(s) they should contact Silk Street reception on 020 7382 7308 and provide details of the suspected noise breakout. The Duty Manager will then be contacted by radio, investigate the incident. If it does seem that the noise could have come from the Cinema we will investigate further

- by interrogation of the sound monitoring records to ascertain if there is any correlation between the sound levels recorded inside the cinema and the residents report.
- by ascertaining if there has been any works or other interventions that could have damaged the sound proofing
- by the identification of any remedial measures that need to be taken to restore the integrity of the soundproofing

If the sound does seem to be coming from the cinemas and diagnosing and remedying the specific problem takes more than 24 hours the sound in the cinemas will be reduced so that it cannot be heard in residents' flats, if necessary by repeating the calibration exercise set out in the acoustic design note\*.

We will then share the results of our investigations and proposed actions with the resident, if contact details have been given, and with the relevant house group chair (who can be contacted through the Barbican Association if necessary).

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\* The 'Acoustic Design Note' (5 July 2012) can be viewed online at [www.planning2.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.planning2.cityoflondon.gov.uk) under the documents tab of the planning application [Reference: 12/00434/MDC].