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Thursday, 21 March 2019

Addendum to Report Referenced DW2511151NR, by Peak Acoustics and dated 14th December 2015.

Dear Qadir

We have been asked to review the proposal to omit the Acoustic Fencing which was previously recommended in our above referenced Noise Report, in place of a wire-mesh type fence.

It is understood that to use Acoustic Fencing presents security issues and is considered unfavourable in relation to *Secure by Design* considerations. The fencing was specified due to external noise levels exceeding the 'acceptable' limit of 55 dB $L_{Aeq16hr}$ given in BS8233:2014. However, the standard does acknowledge that it is not always practical to achieve this limit in all developments:

In higher noise areas, such as city centres or urban areas adjoining the strategic transport network, a compromise between elevated noise levels and other factors, such as the convenience of living in these locations or making efficient use of land resources to ensure development needs can be met, might be warranted. (BS8233:2014 p.25)

It is considered that the efficient land use may offset elevated noise levels to some degree. In addition, the Noise Policy Statement for England recommends that noise is balanced with other factors and not considered in isolation:

In addition, the application of the NPSE should enable noise to be considered alongside other relevant issues and not to be considered in isolation. In the past, the wider benefits of a particular policy, development or other activity may not have been given adequate weight when assessing the noise implications. (NPSE 2010, P.6)

Having reviewed the context of the development, we understand that the security issues may be likely to take precedence over the noise considerations and would comment that this is not necessarily in contradiction with national Noise Policies.

If the Local Authority are in agreement, we would suggest that the previously proposed Acoustic Fencing could be omitted.

Provided that the Local Authority are in agreement with the contents, this letter would take precedence over the recommendations of the original report (DW2511151NR). All aspects other than Acoustic fencing are unaffected.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

T. Hegan
BSc(Hons) AMIOA
Peak Acoustics Ltd