Noise Management Plan

Manchester Christmas Markets 2026

Albert Square Marquee Entertainment Area

Document Title: Noise Management Plan
Event: Manchester Christmas Markets 2026
Location: Albert Square, Manchester
Responsible Person: Clare Roberts
Contact Number: 07709 106247
Version: 1.0
Date: 2026

1. Purpose

This Noise Management Plan (NMP) has been prepared for the Manchester Christmas Markets 2026 to ensure that entertainment and operational activities within Albert Square are managed responsibly and that noise impacts on nearby businesses, residents, and other noise-sensitive receptors are minimised.

The plan outlines the procedures and control measures that will be implemented to monitor, manage, and respond to any noise-related concerns throughout the event period.

2. Event Overview

Manchester Christmas Markets 2026 proposes to operate a small entertainment stage and public address (PA) system within an **18m x 6m marquee** located in Albert Square, Manchester.

The PA system and speakers will be positioned entirely within the marquee and directed towards the audience area to minimise sound breakout beyond the venue.

Entertainment will consist of:

- Solo live performers only.

- No live bands or accompanying backing bands.
- Festive background music played between performances at a lower volume than live acts.
- Entertainment designed to complement the family-friendly atmosphere of the Christmas Markets.

Performance times will generally be:

- After 6:00pm on weekdays.
- During afternoons and after 6:00pm on weekends.

All entertainment activities will operate in accordance with the approved market operating schedule.

3. Noise Limits, Monitoring and Control

3.1 Maximum Noise Levels

Amplified music and festive soundtracks will be controlled to ensure that noise remains at an appropriate level for the event environment.

- Noise levels will not exceed **85 dB(A) LAeq (15 minutes)** when measured at the nearest noise-sensitive receptor, including nearby residential or office premises.
- Music volumes will be managed throughout performances to maintain compliance with agreed limits.

3.2 Noise Monitoring

The following monitoring procedures will be implemented:

- A calibrated **Type 1 Sound Level Meter** will be available on site.
- Daily noise monitoring spot checks will be undertaken during operating hours.
- Additional checks will be conducted:
    - During sound checks.
    - During live performances.
    - Following any noise complaint.
    - Whenever requested by Manchester City Council or Environmental Health Officers.

3.3 Sound Control Measures

- The sound engineer or nominated responsible person will maintain control of the PA system at all times.
- Volume levels will be adjusted immediately if monitoring indicates excessive noise levels.
- Background music will remain significantly lower than live performance levels.

4. Hours of Operation

- Entertainment activities and background music will operate only during the approved market opening hours.
- No amplified music will be played outside authorised operating hours.
- All music and entertainment will be appropriate to the festive and family-oriented nature of the event.
- Programming will be limited to solo performers and recorded festive music.

5. Complaint Management Procedure

A designated **Noise Duty Manager** will be present on site throughout all entertainment activities.

Any noise complaint received directly, via Manchester City Council, event staff, businesses, or members of the public will be managed as follows:

Stage 1 - Logging

- The complaint will be recorded immediately in the event log.
- Details including time, location, complainant information (where provided), and nature of the complaint will be documented.

Stage 2 - Investigation

- The complaint will be investigated within **one hour** of receipt.
- Noise monitoring will be undertaken at the relevant location where practicable.
- Equipment settings and performance levels will be reviewed.

Stage 3 - Corrective Action

Where necessary, corrective measures may include:

- Reducing music volume levels.
- Repositioning speakers where practicable.
- Adjusting sound equalisation settings.
- Temporarily suspending entertainment activities if required.

Stage 4 - Follow-Up Monitoring

- Following corrective action, noise levels will be re-measured.
- Additional monitoring will continue for the remainder of the operating period to ensure compliance.

Communication

Contact details for the on-site Noise Duty Manager will be provided to Manchester City Council and made available on site throughout the event.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Responsible Person

Name: Clare Roberts
Mobile: 07709 106247

Responsibilities

The Responsible Person shall:

- Oversee implementation of this Noise Management Plan.
- Ensure noise monitoring is carried out in accordance with this document.
- Manage and investigate noise complaints.
- Maintain monitoring and complaint records.
- Liaise with Manchester City Council officers where required.
- Ensure corrective actions are implemented promptly.

7. Additional Mitigation Measures

To further minimise noise impact, the following control measures will be implemented:

- All speakers will be positioned and orientated inward towards the audience area within the marquee wherever possible.
- Speaker placement will be designed to minimise sound spill beyond the event footprint.
- PA equipment will be professionally installed and maintained.
- Generators and mechanical equipment associated with the event will be regularly inspected and maintained to prevent unnecessary noise emissions.
- Staff and contractors involved in event operations will receive a noise-awareness briefing before commencement of operations.
- Any identified noise issues will be addressed immediately by the event management team.

8. Review and Compliance

Manchester Christmas Markets is committed to ensuring that noise generated by entertainment activities within Albert Square remains within acceptable levels and is managed responsibly at all times.

This Noise Management Plan will be implemented throughout the duration of Manchester Christmas Markets 2026 and will be reviewed as necessary to ensure continued compliance with the requirements of Manchester City Council and Environmental Health Officers.

Approved By:

Name: Clare Roberts

Position: Event Organiser / Responsible Person