

Noise Impact Assessment 26 King Street DA12, 2DU



Noise Management Plan (NMP)

1. Introduction

This Noise Management Plan (NMP) supports the proposed use of the historic former courthouse (known as The Grand), located at 26 King Street (DA12 2DU), into a Performing Arts Theatre, Café/Takeaway, and Nursery/After-School Club. The site lies in a vibrant central High Street area with nearby shops, pubs, and public transport connections.

This Noise Management Plan (NMP) sets out a comprehensive framework of operational, technical, and behavioural measures aimed at preventing or minimising noise disturbance to nearby sensitive receptors, particularly residential properties. The plan has been developed in alignment with the principles and methodology outlined in BS4142:2014+A1:2019 – Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound. It reflects best practice in environmental noise control and compliance with local authority Environmental Health requirements.

The venue is located in a historic, Grade II Listed building on a vibrant high street, surrounded by a mixture of pubs, shops, and other commercial premises. Due to the

solid construction typical of such historic properties, including thick masonry walls, the building provides excellent inherent sound insulation, significantly reducing potential noise transmission to adjacent properties.

The performing arts theatre will be located centrally within the building, structurally enclosed by other rooms. This internal positioning offers a natural acoustic buffer from the exterior, further limiting any potential impact on surrounding public spaces.

The venue's programming primarily focuses on family-oriented and children's performances, which inherently operate at lower sound levels compared to night-time or adult-targeted entertainment. All amplified sound levels will adhere to the benchmarks established in BS4142, ensuring compliance with acceptable noise limits at the façade of the nearest noise-sensitive properties.

A Nursery/Afterschool Club will operate within the rear section of the building. As the Nursery/Afterschool Club operates weekdays during daytime hours, and performances are scheduled primarily for evenings and weekends, there is no operational overlap or risk of mutual disturbance. The spatial separation further prevents any performance-related noise from impacting Nursery/Afterschool Club operations or the general public.

Summary of Key Factors Reducing Noise Risk:

- Substantial wall construction and historic building fabric
- Centrally located theatre space
- Nursery/Afterschool Club located in the back of the building
- Limited audience size and family-focused performances
- Temporal separation between Nursery/Afterschool Club and performance activities

Together, these elements ensure that noise emissions from the venue are minimal and managed within statutory limits.

2. Café/Takeaway Odour and Noise Management

The venue includes a child- and family-friendly and pre-theatre café, intended to complement the theatre's cultural and social offering. The café will primarily serve light refreshments such as pre-packaged snacks, pastries, sandwich and drinks (hot and cold). On-site cooking will be minimal, with no use of heavy-duty commercial grills, fryers, or hobs.

Odour Management Measures:

- Minimal odour generation due to the absence of complex cooking

- No requirement for external ductwork or odour-abatement stacks

Café Noise Controls:

- Café activities confined to daytime and early evening hours
- Seating layout designed to avoid clustering near noise-sensitive boundaries
- Soft finishes and sound-absorbing materials to reduce internal reverberation
- External doors and windows kept closed during peak hours, where appropriate

Controlled access will be maintained between the café, theatre, and Nursery/Afterschool Club, with clear signage and secure entry points to ensure safeguarding and functional separation.

3. Fixed Plant and Equipment Noise Control

- All mechanical and electrical plant will be selected, installed, and maintained to ensure rating levels at least 10 dB below the existing LA90 background level, as measured at the nearest noise-sensitive façade, in line with BS4142.
- Non-essential plant will be shut down outside operational hours.
- This building will not require any commercial air conditioning or mechanical extract fan in the kitchen.

4. Performing Arts theatre-Music and Entertainment Noise

- Amplified sound systems will be equipped with sound limiters and digital signal processors (DSPs) to control frequency bands, particularly low-frequency content (31.5 Hz & 63 Hz).
- Sound insulation for entertainment spaces will be designed according to acoustic consultant specifications, with box-in-box construction where necessary.
- Music and performance noise will be controlled to remain at least 10 dB below LA90 at the nearest sensitive location.
- Sound systems will be calibrated by professionals.

5. Customer Noise and Behaviour

- Clear and polite signage will encourage customers to depart quietly and respect neighbours.

- Staff or security personnel will monitor dispersal during peak exit times and gently manage noise levels.
- Outdoor smoking or seating areas will be:
 - Monitored by staff
 - Time-limited
 - Non smoking

6. Staff Conduct and Operational Noise

- All staff will be trained in noise awareness protocols, especially for quiet behaviour during early morning setup and late evening closing.
- No shouting, loud conversations, or unnecessary door slamming will be tolerated.
- Break areas will be located away from sensitive façades and acoustically treated if needed.

7. Use of External Areas

- These areas will be:
 - Regularly monitored by staff
 - Fitted with noise-dampening furniture (rubber feet, soft seating)

8. Maintenance Activities

- Noisy tasks (e.g., drilling, hammering) will be avoided outside these times, except in emergencies.

9. Noise Complaints Procedure

A transparent and responsive process is in place for managing and addressing any noise concerns raised by the public.

- A Noise Complaints Logbook will be maintained with entries including:
 - Date and time
 - Nature and source of complaint
 - Complainant's details (if shared)
 - Action taken and resolution

- A manager or duty supervisor will respond to any formal complaint within 72 hours.