

Studio 18 noise mitigation policy 2025

1. General principles

- **Proactive approach:** Studio 18 is committed to being a good neighbour and will actively monitor and manage sound levels to prevent disturbances, rather than reacting only after complaints are made.
- **Compliance:** The studio will comply with all legal noise requirements as set out by the SDC and UK law, including the Noise Act 1996 and Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- **Transparency:** The studio will maintain open and regular communication with SDC Environmental Health regarding events and noise control measures.

2. Event-specific noise management

2.1 Sound checks

- Before any event with amplified music, a thorough sound check will be conducted by the **in-house sound engineer** to establish appropriate volume levels.

2.2 On-site sound management

- **In-house sound engineer:** A dedicated **in-house sound engineer** will be present at all amplified music events to monitor and control sound levels from the mixing desk.
- **Restricted control:** To prevent performers from raising volume levels, the main sound system levels will be controlled exclusively by the **in-house sound engineer**. Performers may be given booth monitors separate from the main speaker system.
- **In-house system calibration:** The in-house sound system will be professionally installed and permanently tuned to the venue's specific acoustics. It will feature:

- A high-pass filter (HPF) set at 30 Hz to eliminate ultra-low sub-bass frequencies.
- A parametric EQ to notch out problem frequencies, specifically dipping the 50 Hz and 160 Hz ranges, which are notorious for causing off-site nuisance.
- A calibrated and tamper-proof noise limiter, permanently installed and integrated with the system.
- **Speaker placement:** Speakers will be strategically positioned to direct sound inward, away from neighbouring residential areas. **In-house staff** will ensure speakers are not moved during events.

2.3 Operational hours

- Amplified music and noise from events will be strictly controlled and reduced to a minimum during "night hours," defined as 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. under the Noise Act 1996.
- All events will finish by a reasonable and pre-communicated time to prevent noise disturbance in the early hours.

3. Structural and technical mitigation

- **Reinforced soundproofing:** The studio will continue to improve and maintain the soundproofing of the building, including reinforcing heavy doors, sealing gaps, and ensuring the "room-within-a-room" construction is properly insulated.
- **Ventilation control:** Necessary ventilation systems will be equipped with acoustic baffles or silencers to prevent noise from escaping through air ducts.
- **Airtight seals:** All windows and doors will be professionally sealed and maintained.
- **Active monitoring equipment:** The studio will utilise modern sound monitoring equipment to take real-time measurements and ensure levels remain within agreed limits both inside and outside the venue.

4. Community engagement and reporting

- **Local communication:** The studio will host regular "open day" events to foster positive relationships with neighbours.
- **Complaint channels:** Studio 18 will accept neighbour complaints via phone, email, or social media. In the event of a complaint made publicly, the studio will aim to acknowledge it promptly and, if possible, move the detailed discussion to a private channel to resolve the issue.
- **Record-keeping:** The **in-house sound engineer** will keep a comprehensive log of all events, noise monitoring data, and any complaints received, along with the action taken. This log will be made available to SDC Environmental Health upon request.