Noise Management Plan (NMP)

Property: The Sessions House, Sheep Market, Spalding, PE11 1BB

Operator: Castle Events Limited

Date: January 2026

1. Introduction

This Noise Management Plan (NMP) outlines the proactive measures taken by The Sessions House to ensure that the change of use of the rear cell block to a Cafe and Bar (Use Class E(b)) coexists harmoniously with neighboring properties. The plan focuses on leveraging the building's inherent structural strengths and implementing robust management controls.

2. Operational Track Record

Since the current operators took over management of The Sessions House 18 months ago, the venue has hosted a wide variety of events, including weddings, art exhibitions, and community performances.

- **Zero Complaints:** During this 18-month period, the venue has maintained a 100% record of zero noise complaints or issues raised by local residents or the local authority.
- **Established Management:** The applicant is an experienced operator with a proven commitment to the "good neighbor" policy, ensuring all events are managed with respect for the local acoustic environment.

3. Impact of Change of Use

While this application seeks to regularize the use of the cell block for commercial purposes—which may lead to an increase in the **frequency** of activity—it is not anticipated that there will be any increase in **noise levels**.

- **Internalization:** The activity is being moved from less regulated residential use to a professionally managed commercial environment contained within high-mass masonry walls.
- **Consistent Levels:** The volume of music and patron activity will be maintained at levels consistent with the venue's existing successful operation, regardless of the increased regularity of use.

4. Acoustic Context & Physical Mitigation

The application area is uniquely suited for noise containment due to its historic construction:

- **Massive Masonry Fabric:** The 1843 rear cell block features exceptionally thick solid masonry walls (original high-security judicial construction). These walls provide a natural and highly effective acoustic buffer that exceeds modern building regulation standards for sound insulation.

- **Internalized Activity:** All amplified music and high-density patron activity associated with the cocktail bar and dinner club will be contained within these individual cells.
- **Retention of Structure:** As the 1843 walls remain fully intact with no new penetrations or openings, there is no risk of new "noise leaks" being created toward the site boundaries.

5. Operational Noise Management

5.1 Music and Amplified Sound

- **Ambient Character:** Music within the cell bar will be limited to background levels or managed live performances (e.g., jazz, classical, acoustic) consistent with a cocktail bar and dinner club environment.
- **Speaker Placement:** Any speakers will be freestanding and positioned away from boundary walls, directed inward toward the center of the rooms.
- **Electronic Limiting:** If required, sound levels will be monitored via decibel meters to ensure they do not exceed pre-set thresholds at the property boundary.

5.2 Courtyard Management

The courtyard will continue its established use as a seated drinking and dining area. To manage noise:

- **Signage:** Discretionary signage will be placed near the courtyard exits asking patrons to respect our neighbors when outside.
- **Managed Seating:** After 23:00, staff will actively manage the courtyard to ensure patron volumes remain at a conversational level.
- **Furniture:** The use of non-fixed, high-quality furniture reduces the noise associated with scraping or moving equipment.

6. Staff Training & Dispersal Policy

- **Training:** All staff will be trained on the importance of noise management and the "good neighbor" policy.
- **Closing Procedures:** During the "wind-down" period (30 minutes prior to the 00:00 Saturday close), music levels will be lowered, and lighting will be brightened to signal a calm departure.
- **Managed Departure:** Staff will be present at the Sheep Market exit during late-night closures to ensure patrons leave the area quietly and do not congregate on the public highway.

7. Deliveries and Waste

- **Timed Collections:** Commercial glass and general waste collections are managed via existing contracts. No glass bottling-out will occur in the courtyard between 22:00 and 08:00.

- **Deliveries:** Deliveries are scheduled to occur during standard daytime business hours to avoid sleep disturbance.

8. Neighborhood Liaison

The Sessions House maintains an open-door policy. We provide a direct point of contact for neighbors to raise any concerns immediately, allowing for rapid resolution without the need for formal complaints.

Conclusion: Through a combination of the building's formidable Victorian structure, a proven 18-month track record of zero issues, and professional management oversight, this proposal represents a low-risk development regarding local acoustic amenity.