

Appendix 4 An Analysis of Reported Noise Incidents

- 1 Reported noise incidents were obtained from both the City of London Police and the City's Environmental Health Team. These are presented at the end of Appendix 4.

City of London Police Report

- 2 This report is not extensive as records are only readily available from when a new reporting system was introduced less than 12 months ago. However, the detail pertaining to each incident is comprehensive and descriptive.
- 3 There have been four reported noise incidents in Mitre Street since August 2011. Anecdotal evidence indicates that such noise disturbances occur more regularly than reported as evidenced by the following statements:
- 4 "This is the first time it has been reported, but has happened for the last two weekends." 6 August 2011
- 5 "... he often hears people at the weekends on the streets in the early hours, but apparently on this occasion it was particularly loud and for a long duration and kept him awake." 7 May 2012 (Bank Holiday)
- 6 It is worth noting that the statement made on 7 May 2012 above corresponds with a high number of parked cars in the Mitre Street area as captured in the parking night-time survey discussed in Appendix 3.
- 7 On almost all occasions, the perpetrators were congregating around parked vehicles, playing loud music, shouting and drinking. In the most recent incident, the informant also mentioned the tendency of visitors to congregate around benches in the Mitre Square area.

The City's Environmental Health Team

- 8 This report shows there has been a total of 32 noise complaints in the last three years. Overall, the number of reported noise complaints has significantly reduced in the last 12 months i.e. only six complaints were recorded in the most recent 12 months.
- 9 The closure of a night club called Paradigm (78-79 Leadenhall Street) at the end of 2010 may have contributed significantly to this reduction in complaints.

- 10 There is also a possibility that residents have realised there is little the City's Environmental Health Team can do as it can be difficult to establish whether the noise threshold has been breached such that enforcement action can be taken. In addition, the nature of the noise (loud talking / laughing) is not enforceable under current noise legislations.
- 11 The only other recourse is therefore for the incidents to be reported to the City of London Police as anti-social behaviour. However, the City of London Police may not have the resources to attend site immediately due to other priorities (sometimes only able to follow-up with informant later in the day.)
- 12 The majority of noise complaints (75 percent) are attributed to a commercial or an entertainment nature.

Summary

- 13 While noise complaints have been reducing over the years, noise disturbance remains a concern for residents in Mitre Street. Seventy five percent of noise complaints are attributed to a commercial or an entertainment nature. The current system of dealing with noise disturbances is not capable of providing a comprehensive long-term solution to the issue.