

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Make sure to include noise impact in late hours applications**

**9 January 2006:** Noise consultant Hepworth Acoustics is advising operators applying for late opening licenses to ensure that they factor in the impact of noise on local residents when they first submit their applications.

Since later opening hours have been introduced under the new licensing regulations Hepworth Acoustics has seen a marked increase in the number of licensing appeals it is involved with. This is arising because applications are being rejected due to of the lack of detailed information about the potential noise impact for local residents. "Noise impact is a major factor in whether a late opening application is successful and this increase in the number of appeals suggests that it will save time, money and effort if premises include a noise impact study with their application in the first place," says Peter Hepworth, managing director.

Assessing noise impact at different times of the evening is carried out using an objective process. Hepworth Acoustics measures the noise levels at the usual closing time and then continues the measurement until the proposed closing hour, always measuring from the nearest residential property. If the measurements indicate a potential increase in the noise impact, the appeal report will include information on how it will be minimised.

"We would normally handle about 5 or 6 appeals cases in a year, but we already have 12 lined up in the New Year and there's no sign of the work diminishing," explains Hepworth. "Many of these could be avoided if noise impact was assessed at the outset."

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