

Dear Kate

Thank you for consulting the ECP Team with regard to this application to discharge condition 8 of PL/2024/03785.

Please note we were not consulted with regard to the original planning application and therefore it is not really “ours” to recommend to discharge or not. I also note the condition that was used is also not worded as we would have recommended.

This, of course, does not necessarily mean the proposal will be an issue. Looking at the condition, it firstly, requires the manufacturer’s specification to be submitted. This has been supplied by the applicant. Manufacturer’s technical specification details are not sufficient to make a judgement that the installation of an ASHP will not have a detrimental effect on the amenity of those living nearby.

The condition also requests proposals for acoustic insulation. The applicant’s “ASHP Details” refers to vibration dampeners and an acoustic screen. There are no details as to on what basis these have been deemed to be necessary, or what assessment had been carried out to decide what exactly is necessary. I cannot judge, therefore, whether it will be adequate or not (or even more than adequate!).

The condition then states that compliance with the MCS Microgeneration Installation Standard MCS020 Issue 1.3. is required. I would recommend you ask the applicant to submit an assessment in accordance with the Standard, including the calculations, that demonstrates compliance with it, and the aim of showing the sound levels from the unit will comply with the permitted development noise limit of 37dB LAeq,5 mins

I should point out that the MCS020 standard does not fully consider the following factors which can increase the potential for noise disturbance:

1. The tonality
2. Intermittency of operation
3. Sound levels in reverse cycle
4. Low background sound levels
5. Structure borne sound and vibration transmission.

Ideally we would prefer an assessment of the acoustic impact arising from the operation of the ASHP to be undertaken by a suitably qualified acoustician in accordance with BS4142:2014 +A1:2019. Such an assessment should demonstrate how amenity can be protected and have regard to the recommendations of the CIEH and IOA professional advice note which state that the ASHPs sound rating levels should not exceed 35dB at any noise sensitive façade of neighbouring residential premises. However, I appreciate such an acoustic assessment was not part of condition 8.

I trust this is of assistance.

Kind regards

Annabel

Mrs Annabel Wilkinson
Environmental Health Officer
Environmental Control & Protection Team

