

## Daniel Lines

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**From:** Richard Mears  
**Sent:** 27 August 2020 13:29  
**To:** CE Licensing; david.c.ellerington@newcastle.gov.uk  
**Subject:** Ref: PSR/DCE

Dear Sir/Madam

I write in reference to the "Application for a Review of a Premises Licence" for "The Schooner, South Shore Road, Gateshead, NE8 3AF" (as per a letter from David Ellerington, dated 25 August 2020).

My address is: [redacted] at Peter's Wharf, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 [redacted]

I understand that the review covers several issues, including "the prevention of public nuisance."

I also understand that some of my neighbours have made complaints regarding alleged excessive volume at live events. I write only to make representations on this matter (and have no knowledge or opinions on other matters that may be considered).

I have lived here for 3 years. I have excellent hearing, and am highly sensitive to noise. And, as I live on the top corner of the highest building in the Marina, I believe I am in a good position to assess reports of excessive noise, as (unlike most residents) noise is not reduced by other buildings etc. So, for example, I can hear most live concerts at the Gateshead Arena (which some of my neighbours may not be able to, as other structures will block and diffuse the noise).

I do not know any of the involved parties, but certainly have an interest in avoiding excessive noise.

**I believe that some noise may have been misattributed - and I think that this can be easily confirmed.**

Because of the peculiar acoustic properties of the marina, sounds are amplified and reflected in a way that can make it difficult to accurately assess their source.

In the last 2 months there have been a number of incidents where I have heard extremely excessive "live music" on an evening. As I didn't venture downstairs to investigate, I assumed that it must be coming from the newly reopened pub "The Merchant's Tavern" (downstairs, below me).

After speaking to a neighbour, I learned that "The Merchant's Tavern" pub had not been playing any live music at all, although others had mistakenly thought the same as me (or thought that "The Schooner" was the source).

The source of the noise was actually another neighbour who was regularly having garden parties, with volume at extremely excessive levels. I believe they must have been using some sort of commercial equipment, as most speakers in residential homes cannot output this level of volume without severely distorting.

Strangely, every time this neighbour was only playing recordings of *live* music. I found this highly unusual; at parties, people will typically play mainly "studio" versions rather than entire live concerts (with crowd noise).

Because of this, and the volume, it was natural to assume that the adjacent venue (that sometimes plays live music) was the source.

Had I gone downstairs and discovered that the "The Merchant's Tavern" was not playing live music, I'd probably have assumed that the source must be either The Schooner, or the Gateshead Arena (due to the odd acoustics of the marina making it difficult to pinpoint the source of the sound, and also the unlikelihood that the source of the noise would be recordings of live music being played on commercial equipment by a local resident).

As it would be grossly unfair for excessive noise from members of the general public in Newcastle to be misattributed (to either "The Schooner" or "The Merchant's Tavern"), my suggestion is this:

When a report of excessive noise is received from St Peter's Basin (but attributed to "The Schooner", or other venues on the Gateshead side) please will you review the noise levels in *both* locations, rather than just on the Gateshead side. And (should the noise levels be found to be higher on the St Peter's Basin side), please can you determine the actual source (which I believe will likely be residential), and deal with it as appropriate.

Please feel free to contact me with any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Mears