



Mr B Coughlan
Hackney Planning Services
2 Hillman Street
London
E8 1FB

Dear Sir

Planning application for redevelopment of 118 Curtain Road
Application reference: 2018/0363

Further objection in support of Strongroom Studio

I am Deputy CEO of UK Music, the umbrella body for the commercial music industry. We exist to promote the economic and social benefits of music to the UK. Our latest Measuring Music report indicates the sector generates £4.5 billion to the economy, employs over 140,000 people and produces export revenues of £2.6 billion. Our members include organisations such as the Music Producers Guild, Musicians Union, Featured Artist Coalition and the Association for Independent Music which rely on spaces like Strongroom in the pursuit of creativity.

UK Music successfully lobbied the UK Government for the introduction of the agent of change principle within the new National Planning Policy Framework. Whilst the campaign focused on music venues, the desired impact of the new NPPF is to mitigate harm on all existing business when noise issues arise¹. The agent of change principle is therefore pertinent to this case and the potential harm on the existing business in this instance.

Previously I have signed the Petition along with about 6500 other people to oppose this application because of the devastating impact its construction will have on Strongroom studios, and Strongroom bar and kitchen. In light of the further documents filed by the applicant I wish to make clear that this makes the reasons for signing the petition are all the more stronger. It is clear that if permitted, this development will cause intolerable harm to Strongroom.

¹ See paragraph 182 here

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/740441/National_Planning_Policy_Framework_web_accessible_version.pdf

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The Applicant in its paperwork acknowledges that Strongroom Studios are an internationally renowned recording studios and highly sensitive to sound and vibration. The sound report lodged by the applicant accepts that there will be significant disturbance, in breach of noise conditions which are agreed by your EHO and Strongroom's expert as reasonable.

If this development is permitted the works will render the studios unusable for over a year. Such a long disturbance will mean artists and record companies will be forced to look elsewhere to record their work. Losing its client base during this prolonged disturbance puts its long term future at serious risk.

I doubt that any business could sustain itself with all its costs for such a long period but with a studio this is even more the case. The livelihoods over 150 people are at risk here as well as the commercial impact to the wider Hackney economy.

Hackney Council as a planning authority should be proud of the Strongroom and what it represents for the cultural heritage of Shoreditch and the international reputation of London as a centre for the creative industries.

Hackney Council should uphold the policies that safeguard such well established businesses.

Please refuse this application.

Yours faithfully

Tom Kiehl
Deputy CEO and Director of Public Affairs
UK Music