

## **Noise Statement – 29 Chestnut Crescent, Barrow - Proposed Dog Grooming.**

I understand that a planning authority has a duty and indeed obligation under government planning guidance to consider the effect of disturbance to residents of an adjacent proposed development or change of use and that this noise impact relates to disturbance in the garden and living areas.

In this case the grooming is proposed to be done by appointment only; only three dogs per day would be able to be dealt with; there would normally be only one dog on the premises at a time; the dog would be with an experienced handler and would not be left alone; dogs would not be kept overnight; the hours of use would be weekdays 9am to 5pm and Saturday morning 9am to 1.30pm. As such I feel as though a full analytical assessment is disproportionate and for a small dog grooming business dealing with one dog for a couple of hours at a time a more appropriate level of assessment should be considered suitable. The statement below is in line with this.

It is proposed that the summerhouse in the rear garden of 29 Chestnut Crescent be used as the dog grooming area. The summer house is a timber structure with Upvc double glazed windows and doors. The stud walls are 100mm thick filled with 75mm thick Rockwool acoustic insulation which is stated by the manufacturer to have a sound reduction of a minimum of 40db. The roof is similarly filled with the same acoustic insulation.

In addition, the garden has a number of established trees and is surrounded by a 1.8m high panel fence serving as a barrier further reducing the sound level in neighbouring gardens.

I am aware that Ribble Valley Borough Council have to date no approved guidelines for assessing noise impacts on residential properties but have accepted the levels that have been recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as Guidelines for the prevention of Community Noise Annoyance. The WHO recommended maximum noise levels for gardens that should not be exceeded are 50dB(A) LAeq,16hr in order to avoid any adverse effect on health and quality of life.

As far as the dog grooming is concerned there are two possible sources of noise; the drier and secondly possible barking of a dog.

1. I propose to use a canister dryer (Aeolus TD-901GT) The manufacturer's specified noise level measured 1m from the back of the drier is 79db(A). It takes about 5-10 minutes to dry a dog and would only groom 3 dogs per day.
2. Barking is of low risk of this occurring because during the grooming process the dog is handled by an experienced dog groomer and the dog would never be left alone for any significant length of time. In my experience dogs seldom bark during grooming and sustained barking is very rare. In the rare occasion a dog continues to bark a muzzle can be used to suppress this.

For this statement, 65.6db at 10m has been used as the basis of the calculation for the noise level of the barking of a dog. It is understood this has been accepted by Ribble Valley Borough Council. Correcting for the distance of the base level of a dog bark from 10m to 1m is 85.6dB.

The noise emitted would be;

Noise level from the dryer:  $79\text{dB} - 40\text{dB} = 39\text{ dB}$

Noise level of the bark from the dog:  $85.6\text{dB} - 40\text{dB} = 45.6\text{ dB}$

Adding these two noise levels =  $49.1\text{ dB}$

These calculations show that the noise level produced in a worst-case scenario (dryer on full power and dog barking at the same time) is below that advised by WHO.

This is before any further reduction has been made to reflect distance attenuation, free field conditions and attenuation created by the gardens high fence and trees.

These further reductions would bring this figure well below that advised.

This statement hopefully demonstrates that the proposal would not cause an unacceptable noise nuisance.