

WIRELESS FESTIVAL

SECOND SUBMISSIONS OF LIVE NATION (MUSIC) LIMITED

INTRODUCTION

1. Wireless Festival has taken place in Finsbury Park on five occasions, starting in 2014. In 2018, it happened on Friday 6th – Sunday 8th July.¹ The premises licence holder is Live Nation, and the event is run on its behalf by its sister company Festival Republic. For simplicity, in these submissions, all references will be to Live Nation.
2. The London Borough of Haringey has laid down a robust system for regulation and operation of the festival in partnership with responsible authorities, neighbouring authorities and local residents. The system involves consultation, careful planning, monitoring and response during the event and carrying the learning from each year's event into the planning for the next year's festival.
3. The outcome is that none of the Responsible Authorities has made negative representations in response to this application for review. The only representations from responsible authorities are positive.
4. Live Nation is grateful for all of the representations which have been made, positive and negative. They will of course be taken into account in planning the event for 2019. It looks forward to working with those making representations to deal with their concerns, using the planning mechanisms which are already in place. However, none of the representations need or justify interfering with the licence itself.
5. In these submissions, Live Nation will deal with:
 - How the event is regulated.
 - How the event is planned.
 - How the event is operated.
 - Learning from the event
 - Response to the representations

¹ The previous weekend was the community weekend, with Liam Gallagher on Friday 29th June, Queens of the Stone Age on Saturday 30th June and Two Door Cinema Club on Sunday 1st July. On Wednesday 4th July there was a schools music festival.

6. These submissions should be read together with the Response of the Premises Licence Holder dated 2nd August 2018, which is not repeated here to avoid duplication. Those submissions dealt with the 2017 event, which was the subject of the application for review.

HOW THE EVENT IS REGULATED

Contract

7. Live Nation is permitted by the London Borough of Haringey (“the Council”) to occupy the park pursuant to a contract for hire. The contract,² which runs to some 44 pages and 117 clauses, contains a highly detailed set of provisions controlling the event and its impact on the park and the environs. These provisions include:
- (1) The terminal hours for the event of 10 p.m. on the Sunday and 10.30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
 - (2) The maximum capacity of the event is 49,999, including 45,000 patrons.
 - (3) There has to be an Operational Plan agreed between the Council and Live Nation before Live Nation can commence any site works. This must include (among other things), a build-up schedule, a take-down schedule, risk assessments, onsite management and safety arrangements, structures and infrastructure, noise management plan, arrangements to minimise damage to the park, a cleaning and park hygiene plan, a traffic management plan, a signage and wayfinding plan and emergency planning.
 - (4) Live Nation has to liaise with the Council, Police, enforcement authorities and emergency services regarding the establishment of an Event Management Plan including emergency/incident plans and a traffic management plan. This is to be consistent with the Operational Plan.
 - (5) Live Nation and the Council have to work together to put in place a traffic management order for the event, paid for by Live Nation, which must also comply with the requirements of Council and the Police regarding traffic management.
 - (6) Live Nation has to employ best practice for noise management and control as reflected in the Guidance for Control of Noise and Sound at Large Outdoor Events.
 - (7) Live Nation is responsible for any damage to the park or its equipment. There are detailed contractual arrangements for its protection.

² It is not possible to exhibit the contract because it contains commercially confidential information.

- (8) Live Nation is responsible for litter and waste clearance within the park and access and egress routes both before during and after the event.
- (9) Live Nation has to provide temporary WCs as agreed by the Council.
- (10) Live Nation has to provide adequate stewarding to minimise disruption to other users of the park.
- (11) Live Nation has to distribute leaflets to local residents giving details of the event, telephone contact numbers including an emergency out of hours number, and also including translation services for the borough's 10 most used languages.
- (12) Live Nation has to comply with the premises licence and all applicable legislation including health and safety and fire protection requirements.
- (13) Live Nation has to comply with the reasonable directions of the Council's relevant officer regarding the use of the park in accordance with the agreement.
- (14) The removal of equipment, goods, materials etc after the event must be to the satisfaction of the Council.

Licence

8. The premises licence was granted on 16th December 2013 following a hearing before the Licensing Sub-Committee.
9. The licensing hours are as follows. Regulated entertainment must terminate at 10 p.m. on Sundays and 10.30 p.m. on other days. The supply of alcohol must cease at 9.30 p.m. on Sundays and 10 p.m. on other days. The licensed area must close by 10.30 p.m. on Sundays and 11 p.m. on other days.
10. The licence has no fewer than 113 conditions. These include the following:
 - (1) The licence can only be used once the park hire has been agreed with the Council.
 - (2) The consent of the licensing authority must be given for an event to take place.
 - (3) The licence requires Live Nation to engage with the Safety Advisory Group ("SAG").
 - (4) Before an event takes place, an event management plan has to be approved by the SAG. To this end, planning meetings have to occur with the Council and other agencies.

- (5) There has to be a comprehensive and satisfactory traffic management plan, including full details of ingress and egress management. This has to be agreed by the Council, the Police, other impacted local traffic authorities, TFL and First Capital Connect.
- (6) There has to be a traffic management order approved by the relevant traffic authorities. Its implementation must be by adequately trained stewards.
- (7) Queues at transport hubs are to be managed by trained staff, as approved by the SAG.
- (8) Live Nation is to bear the costs of the traffic management plan, traffic management order, queuing arrangements and the egress management plan.
- (9) There must be an agreed number of SIA security and stewards at agreed locations outside the environs of the park as part of the event management plan. There must also be an agreed number of stewards/marshals to ensure that patrons leave the premises safely. The stewards' duties include the dispersal of patrons after the event, the prevention of public urination and implementation of the egress management plan. There have to be adequate temporary WC facilities outside the concert site at named locations.
- (10) The events have to be conducted in accordance with the Purple Guide to Health, Safety and Welfare at Music and Other Events
- (11) There can be no alcohol price promotions, happy hours or other promotions designed to encourage excessive drinking.
- (12) There has to be a noise management plan, produced by Live Nation's acoustic consultant in liaison with the licensing authority. The consultant has to be on site throughout the event to ensure that noise levels on and off site are met. The consultant is responsible for monitoring of noise sensitive locations to ensure that noise conditions are being adhered to. A minimum of two persons have to be available outside the park to monitor noise levels and provide a response to complaints. Sound levels must not exceed background levels by more than 15 decibels. Live Nation have to comply with any reasonable request of the licensing officer regarding sound levels.
- (13) There has to be a waste/litter management plan contained in the final event management plan. The licence sets out the area of operation, and requires pedestrian routes into the park to be looked after during and after events, and for the whole area to be litter free by 6 a.m. on the morning after each concert. This is to be inspected by Council officers.
- (14) A plan of the area that has to be leafleted before the event must be agreed with the Council. The leaflet is to have information regarding the traffic management order, complaints line

information, travel information, the waste/litter management plan, vehicular access and parking restrictions, pedestrian access restrictions, and a telephone number for complaints during the event and also during the build up and break down periods.

- (15) A record must be kept of all complaints, together with the action taken. The record is available for inspection by the Council at all times. The final record is to be submitted to the Council.

11. The Licensing Sub-Committee clearly understood the importance of the planning process through the Safety Advisory Group as the appropriate mechanism for controlling the detail of events, rather than seeking to micro-manage through the licence itself. As a result of the licence hearing, it recorded the following on the licence:

“The Committee acknowledges that before an event takes place, the event management plan will need to be finalised to the satisfaction of the Safety Advisory Group. The Committee emphasises the requirement for the egress plan to contain satisfactory provision of stewarding from the event to key public transport links. There are many aspects that the Committee cannot condition today because of the nature of an indefinite licence, however it accepted the credibility that the applicant will address the issues that have arisen from recent events, albeit by other promoters. These include and are not limited to adequate provision of toilets and street cleaning.”

12. The Sub-Committee will see that the combination of a) the agreement, b) the licence and c) the event planning process are more than sufficient to regulate the Wireless event. At its most basic level, control is held by the Council itself, without whose say-so, the event cannot proceed at all. The Council only green-lights the event when it and other relevant agencies are fully satisfied with the event plan. Any learning from the event is carried forward into event planning for the following year. The premises licence provides a strong framework within which this partnership work is carried out. The framework provides sufficient flexibility for the regulatory authorities to control events from year to year.
13. It is unwise and unnecessary to alter the licence itself to incorporate every detail of the event planning. For large events, this would be impossible, since the licence would need to be several hundred pages long and even then susceptible to constant change. Rather, as here, the licence sets out the framework within which the SAG and event planning process operate.

HOW THE EVENT IS PLANNED

14. Event planning starts as soon as the previous year's event is completed with the Premises Licence Holder carrying out a large number of internal debriefs.

15. In 2018, Live Nation commissioned a number of independent experts to produce audits of different aspects of the festival, including Reading Borough Council and other consultants focussing on environmental health, food safety, antisocial behaviour and noise. The audits were carried out during the event and its results fed into the debrief process. The reports are at Tabs 1 and 2.
16. It also considers the complaints log and is able to establish the underlying themes or issues.
17. During the event, Live Nation meets with a group³ of residents to discuss any matters of concern and how it can respond. These lessons are also carried forward. The minutes of these meetings during Wireless are at Tab 3.
18. Live Nation also receives feedback from its own team and statutory authorities during and after the event, leading to an event debrief.
19. An improvement plan is then produced, incorporating such learning. It is shared with partner agencies.
20. Then, in January, the SAG process recommences. The meetings are chaired by a Council officer and are generally attended by Haringey officers (parks, environmental health, regulatory services, environmental noise, building control, highways etc), together with officers from the Metropolitan Police, TFL, London Ambulance Service, the fire authority and of course the licensee. Officers of the London Boroughs of Islington and Hackney are always invited although are not always able to attend.⁴
21. In addition, the licensee holds meetings with specific responsible authorities outside of the SAG meetings to address areas within their expertise, such as security and policing issues with the Metropolitan Police.
22. There are also meetings with representatives of the local community in advance of the event. The community receives a letter setting out arrangements for the event. This year, 22,000 letters were distributed, within a radius agreed by the Council. The letter for 2018 and the distribution plan is at Tab 4.
23. A schedule of the planning and consultation meetings which took place in 2017 and 2018 is shown at Tab 5. Looking forward, it is proposed that consultation will continue as follows:
 - SAG meetings will take place under the direction of the Council as the Licensing Authority and Hackney and Islington will continue to be invited to these meetings.

³ Thus far, the group is of Hackney residents. The meetings have been a success, and Live Nation would like to extend this to Islington and Haringey residents too.

⁴ In 2018, Islington attended 25% of SAG meetings and Hackney 50%.

- Satellite meetings will take place as necessary and the invitees will be those authorities who are relevant to the subject matter of the meeting.
- There will be a tri-borough approach to traffic and parking including parking restrictions, enforcement, temporary orders, and a taxi pick up and drop off point with the final Traffic Management Plan being signed off by SAG.
- Stakeholder meetings will continue to be called by the Council as considered appropriate and Live Nation will attend these when requested to do so.
- The Council will continue to host a Stakeholder visit to the festival site which Live Nation will continue to facilitate.
- Live Nation will continue to attend the Hackney residents meetings and if requested will attend meetings with Islington residents and/or Haringey residents.
- Live Nation will continue to organise event day residents' meetings with representatives from Hackney and it will also arrange similar meetings with residents' representatives from Islington and Haringey if requested to do so by these councils.

24. The framework for organisation of the event is shown at Tab 6. The event is supervised by Melvin Benn personally. He is the most experienced and senior event organiser in the UK (biography at Appendix 1 of the First Submission.) The event is managed and delivered by a team of approximately 4,500 staff, contractors and performers.

24. The "bible" for the event is the event management plan. This consists of a headline document setting out the measures for promoting each of the licensing objectives, and then incorporating 20 appendices, namely:

- (1) Adverse weather plan.
- (2) Alcohol management plan.
- (3) Access management plan.
- (4) Child protection and safeguarding policy.
- (5) Counter terrorism statement of commitment.
- (6) Health and safety policy.
- (7) Fire risk assessment.

- (8) Major incident plan.
- (9) Medical management plan.
- (10) Operational management plan.
- (11) Noise management plan.
- (12) Risk assessment.
- (13) Sanitation and waste management plan.
- (14) Security placement schedule.
- (15) Site map.
- (16) Traffic management plan.
- (17) Water safety plan.
- (18) Production schedule / CDM build schedule.
- (19) Tent exit calculations.
- (20) Fire extinguisher allocation.

25. The following plans also form part of the event management plan:

- (1) The Egress Management Plan, which is technically part of the traffic management plan but is prepared separately, in conjunction with specific authorities, and then signed off through SAG.
- (2) Egress Timeline Spreadsheet
- (3) Acid Attack Policy
- (4) Bomb Treat Guidance
- (5) Emergency and Routine Screen Messages Template
- (6) Things To Look Out For Briefing
- (7) Evacuation Checklist
- (8) Eviction Form

(9) Major Incident and Evacuation Briefings

(10) Major Incident Equipment

(11) Seizure Confiscation Form

(12) Sexual Assault Guidance

(13) Suspect Package Briefing Full and Key Points

(14) Suspicious Vehicle Full and Key Points Briefing

(15) Vehicle Search Protocol

26. The entire plan runs to well over 420 pages. It is not produced in total for this hearing a) because this would overload the hearing, b) because it is sensitive for security and/or commercial reasons. However, Live Nation has produced the headline document (Tab 7), the noise management plan (Tab 8) and the egress management plan (Tab 9) since these are directly pertinent to some of the points raised.

27. It is important to stress that all of these documents have to be signed off by the SAG, without which the event may not proceed. Thus, all the detailed planning for the event and its environmental controls must be agreed by the relevant agencies, led by the London Borough of Haringey, otherwise the event may not proceed. It is also right to say that the relevant officers from the London Borough of Haringey are highly experienced in the task and have established an efficient, professional working relationship with Live Nation, enabling the event to be planned successfully, incorporating learning from previous years.

HOW THE EVENT IS OPERATED

28. The event is operated from the control room within a marquee in Finsbury Park. The control structure is shown on the organisation chart (Tab 6). Melvin Benn is the event gold commander with strategic responsibility for the event and he is supported by the silver commander (tactical) and the bronze commander (operations). The control room includes the noise monitoring team, the residents' hotline staff, security supervisors, medical supervisors, fire supervisors, CCTV operators and transport supervisors. They liaise directly with key representatives and decision makers from the London Borough of Haringey, Metropolitan Police, London Ambulance Service, transport advisers and the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, some of whom are there throughout and some of whom are there only for the key times involving their operation. The control room is effectively the nerve centre of the event, and ensures that the event passes off safely and with a minimum of disruption

to the locality. Control rooms are a critical and routine part of any large event including festivals, football matches and concerts.

29. During the event the SAG meets four times a day. There are two SAG meetings, one SAG egress meeting and a real time debrief. Again, this ensures that the event runs in close co-operation with the authorities.
30. As well as the security operation within and outside the site, there is a Metropolitan Police presence on and off-site, including a covert presence.
31. The noise control operation involves real time monitoring of noise sensitive locations, the ability to assess not just overall noise but also noise levels at individual frequencies and response to individual noise complaints by trained personnel. All data is available to, and shared with, Haringey noise officers.
32. Off-site issues are managed by the Event Manager, Licensing Co-ordinator, two off site managers, a waste manager (the operation being run by Hackney Council), a security supervisor and a noise consultant.
33. The security team was significantly enlarged this year, as evidence of Live Nation's commitment to the promotion of the crime prevention objective. Between 2017 and 2018, on-site security increased from 781 to 928 security personnel on the Friday, 779 to 943 on the Saturday and 782 to 943 on the Sunday of the festival. Off-site security increased from 14 to 93 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday between 2017 and 2018 (Tab 10). The agreed off-site security parties are shown as the plan at tab 11. The off-site security was increased firstly as a result of a helpful meeting between Live Nation, Metropolitan Police, London Borough of Haringey and London Borough of Hackney and secondly following a request from the Haringey Licensing Officer to station six off site security officers in Islington, to deal with the small minority of festival goers who engage in anti-social behaviour. It is hoped that a similar conversation will take place this year including the London Borough of Islington, if they wish.
34. In 2017, there were 120 toilets in "Toilet City" on the egress route which was expanded to 224 toilets in 2018, an increase of 87%. The off-site toilets were removed following requests by London Borough of Hackney.
35. In 2017 and 2018 Festival Republic paid Hackney Council to undergo the cleaning of the off-site areas. The litter plan for 2017 and 2018 is at Tab 12. In 2018 this provision was bolstered with an additional garden clean team and additional security to move on anyone attempting to urinate.

LEARNING FROM EVENT

36. The process of learning from the event is set out above. As a result of feedback from residents after 2017, steps taken for 2018 included:

- (1) Off-site security was increased from 14 to 93, so as to concentrate staff in areas of need.
- (2) Improvement in noise monitoring procedures.
- (3) Improved liaison with Hackney residents throughout the year in the lead up to the event.
- (4) Daily meetings with Hackney residents during the large scale events so feedback could be responded to live. The idea for these meetings came from Live Nation and they proved constructive and helpful.
- (5) At request of London Borough of Islington, six additional security provided in Prah Road, Ambler Road and St Thomas Road during Wireless.
- (6) Geo-fenced Hackney side streets preventing Uber pick-ups there.
- (7) Signage displayed asking festival goers to respect residents.

37. As mentioned above, in 2018, there was an independent audit carried out by highly experienced officers of Reading Borough Council and audits by other experts who attended the festival throughout, including the ingress and egress operation (see Tabs 1 and 2). While music noise was audible off-site for a majority of the time, they did not consider noise levels to be a nuisance, even where complaints had been made. This is consistent with the observations of Live Nation's own noise consultant. Nor did they consider noise and disturbance due to festival goers in local streets to be excessive. They saw only isolated incidents of drunkenness. They considered that the Hackney Council litter operation (paid for by Live Nation) was efficient. They did not see street urination. They did not discern a high degree of dissatisfaction from local residents. They considered that festival goers left in an orderly manner and noise levels were not intrusive. Little litter was exported from the site. Their conclusions were positive, and included helpful learning points, picked up through the event debrief and SAG process for 2019.

38. The increase in the security team, their liaison with Whatsapp, the Metropolitan Police presence, the use of the Police helicopter and other security measures resulted in the number of ASB complaints this

year falling to 35. Taken as a proportion of the 22,000 households to whom leaflets were delivered this year, this represents 0.16%.

39. In total, there were 40 arrests over the weekend of Wireless. Taken as a proportion of the 135,000 people who attended, this is 0.03%. It is similar to 2017, but represents a 75% reduction on numbers for 2014. Reported crimes were down from 50 in 2017 to 48 in 2018 despite the audience size having increased.
40. The general lack of street urination witnessed by the festival auditors (although undoubtedly some will occur unnoticed) was a function of the location of an expanded 'Toilet City' on the egress route, which all festival goers have to walk past as they exit the festival.
41. There were also significant learning points in 2018. For example, during the first event week, those leaving the festival did not stick to the exit route through the park, but exited onto the street. This was observed and rectified, as was demonstrated in the following five events. For a time, Islington residents were obstructed driving to and from home, which was dealt with by the display of further "residents access only signage", etc. Having met and dealt with Hackney residents, Melvin Benn has committed to the provision of 4 x year round security staff in Hackney every Friday and Saturday evening for the next 12 months.
42. In addition, Live Nation is fully aware of the representations which have been made during this review process. It will also incorporate the learning from those representations into its planning and discussions with the SAG for 2019. For example, Live Nation has noted the concern expressed by some of those making representations about the noise of the Police helicopter. Live Nation has spoken about this with the Metropolitan Police, who are reviewing the matter to see if it can be replaced by a drone.
43. However, while all expressed concerns are important, it is fair to put them into perspective. While this licence review was much publicised, there are a total of 76 representations. Again, taken as a proportion of the 22,000 households on the distribution list, this is 0.35%. This closely correlates to the percentage making complaints in relation to other festivals such as Reading and Leeds.
44. Similarly, noise complaints fell from 45 in 2017 to 38 in 2018. Over the three days of the event with a combined attendance of over 135,000 people, there were only 105 complaints in total, or 0.47% of the 22,000 households.

BENEFITS OF THE EVENT

45. National Guidance under section 182 Licensing Act 2003 refers to the benefits to the community of live music events. It also asks licensing authorities to avoid inappropriate or disproportionate measures

that could deter events that are valuable to the community.⁵ It is therefore worth reflecting briefly on the benefits of the Wireless event.

- (1) The event contributes significantly to the London Borough of Haringey's parks budget.
- (2) The event helps to fulfil the Council's Events Strategy.
- (3) The event is important both musically and culturally, promoting creativity, inclusivity and social cohesion.
- (4) The event is particularly important to young people, who are a group with protected characteristics, so helping to promote equality of opportunity, pursuant to the Council's public sector equality duty.
- (5) The spend of visitors to the event, including accommodation, transportation and food and beverages, contributes to the local economy.
- (6) The festival site accommodates community days and a mid-week music event for schools. The schools event is organised by Haringey Council and allows school children to make music of all genres on a stage on the site which also promotes the musical, cultural and equalities objectives set out above. The organisers also do a site tour for pupils at Stroud Green School.
- (7) The festival actively promotes messaging against knife crime. During the festival messages have been given from the stage and also displayed on the large screens either side of the stage.
- (8) The event also raises money for charity each year which is distributed to a number of charitable causes.
- (9) The event provides free tickets for local schools. An example of how this scheme works and its benefits is at Tab 14, where the Assistant Head Teacher of Our Lady's Convent High School thanks Wireless for their offer of free tickets. He explains that the tickets act as an incentive for sixth form students to be on top of work and completing tasks, and that the impact was "amazing". He has made a further, helpful, suggestion of offering tickets at the beginning of the year as an incentive for students throughout the year.
- (10) Live Nation is considering a scheme for apprenticeships for young people in Haringey, Hackney and Islington to be implemented in 2019.

⁵ Paras 2.17 and 10.10.

(11) Live Nation is also considering the sponsoring of a university place for a local resident who could not otherwise afford to go, following the lead of the musician Stormzy.

46. Live Nation is aware that large events are disliked by some local residents. However, in the interests of balance, it is right to recall their benefits, and also that their impacts are relatively short-lived.

47. The balance, of course, is held by the licence which ensures that impacts are mitigated in a proportionate matter, and that there are appropriate controls in place.

RESPONSE TO REPRESENTATIONS

48. Before turning to the representations, it is right to set down some general points.

49. First, there is no suggestion from anybody that the licensee is not fit and proper to run Wireless. To the contrary, it is one of the leading promoters in the UK, if not the world, with vast experience of putting on much-loved festivals in a safe and well-managed manner, in partnership with local authorities and communities. It has demonstrated a high degree of commitment to the site, the festival and partnership with the responsible authorities and the community to ensure that relevant impacts are mitigated.

50. Second, there is no suggestion that the conditions of the licence have been breached. I.e. this is a compliant licensee. The 113 conditions on this licence render it much more comprehensive than many licences governing even large events.

51. Third, the experts on the promotion of the licensing objectives are the responsible authorities. In this case, their views carry particular weight because they work with the licensee through the year and are present during the event itself. They are therefore intimately aware of the licensee's performance, and also of the impacts of the festival on the local community. The police are present on site and in neighbouring streets. Noise officers are instantly privy to noise data and respond to complaints. Unlike in licensed premises, any deficiencies in performance will come to the attention of the responsible authorities.

52. Despite that, there is no adverse representation from any responsible authority.

53. The Licensing Sub-Committee is particularly referred to detailed, 9 page, submission dated 2nd August 2018 by the Council's Head of Community Safety and Enforcement on behalf of the Licensing Authority. His conclusion is:

"Whilst recognising that events such as Wireless do cause disruption in the local area, in the view of the Licensing Authority, the licensing objectives were not undermined.

In the view of the Licensing Authority, the event organisers have demonstrated a clear willingness to engage appropriately with the Responsible Authorities and to learn from previous events to better improve the management of events. This has been evidenced in demonstrable improvements year on year."

54. The Sub-Committee is also referred to the submissions of its Commissioning Manager for Public Realm, Environment and Neighbourhoods dated 2nd August 2018, which sets out a full account of the history of the event. He states that the 2018 planning process led to a marked drop in concerns being raised by local residents. He did, however, think that Hackney's partnership work with the festival organiser and the increase in security in Hackney may have displaced some issues into Islington, which is being picked up in the 2019 planning process. He also points out that the objection of some people to events in the park is mitigated by limiting the number of such events, and maintaining at least 73% of the park open for residents.

55. The Sub-Committee also has before it the report of its Antisocial Behaviour Specialist Officer (Noise). He explains that the Council carries out its own independent monitoring of noise impact, including low frequency measurement. He also considers the noise complaints received, before concluding:

"I do not believe that the licensing objective of the prevention of public nuisance is being compromised."

56. It is submitted that this is an extremely powerful set of reports from the Council's relevant officers, and a testament to the iterative partnership work carried out in relation to this festival over many year.

57. Fourth, it goes with the territory that in proceedings such as this, the Sub-Committee hears from the objectors rather than the supporters. It is, however, noteworthy that the level of complaints about this event, whether those complaining to the organiser, the Council or in these proceedings, is very low. As has been pointed out, it is impossible to run a large, live music event without complaint, but the evidence clearly suggests that this is a well-run event at which proper steps are being taken to promote the licensing objectives.

58. Fifth, and most importantly, the answer to the representations is that there is a comprehensive mechanism in place to handle the issue through the event planning process. This makes detailed item by item rebuttal of each representation unnecessary. If the complaint is anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the park, the SAG will look at whether it is necessary to increase provision for 2019. If the complaint is about the noise level, consideration can be given to whether a further noise monitoring location needs to be introduced. If the complaint is about traffic or parking, this will be considered in

the traffic management order and traffic management arrangements for 2019, and so on. In short, nothing has occurred which requires interference with the licence itself.

59. With that in mind, reference is made to the two main recurring themes below. To avoid repetition, and without intending disrespect to any individual making representations, they are taken compendiously rather than individually.

Noise

60. The Friends of Finsbury Park have submitted a noise report by a Mr Richard Vivian, following a single, 3 hour, visit to the park in 2017. He does not seem to have visited in 2018. His report has been rebutted by the first report of Mr Griffiths, a nationally eminent noise expert, who is employed to be Live Nation's noise consultant. The first report of Mr Griffiths is at Appendix 4 of Live Nation's First Submission.

61. Mr. Griffiths has also produced a second report (at Tab 13) explaining the system for noise management during the 2018 event, and its compliance and effectiveness, as also referenced by the Council's Antisocial Behaviour Specialist Officer (Noise) and the 2018 audits.

62. Notwithstanding this, there is further noise work which will be picked up in the event planning process. Mr Griffiths considers that there should be further noise monitoring positions, including in Islington and that the background levels should be re-assessed. This concurs with the recommendations by Jan Hart of the London Borough of Islington.

Off-site impacts

63. Jan Hart asks for a crowd management plan to deal with ASB and egress into Islington. She appears, respectfully, to be unaware of the egress management plan agreed with the SAG each year and sent to the London Borough of Islington. It is hoped that Islington will participate in discussion regarding the plan for 2019. She has submitted some brief notes by a licensing officer from this year's event. It is hoped that Islington officers may wish to work in partnership with the event team in 2019, so that any issues they note may be immediately rectified.

64. She also asks for greater engagement with Islington residents. Greater engagement with Hackney residents has been productive in 2018. Live Nation would of course be pleased to engage more closely with Islington residents for 2019.

65. Ms Hart also wishes to have any traffic management order affecting Islington to be drafted by Islington. In fact, all three boroughs already liaise on the drafting of the traffic management order. Festival Republic looks forward to Islington's involvement in discussions at SAG meetings for 2019.

66. Ms Hart also wishes to be given back responsibility for cleaning its own streets after events. At present, the responsibility for street cleaning in the 3 boroughs is taken by Hackney, paid for by Festival Republic. Of course, if Islington wishes, Festival Republic will give the appropriate proportion of the payment to Islington instead.
67. In short, none of Ms Hart's points involve changes to the licence.
68. Councillor Potter, the Brownswood Ward Councillor at the London Borough of Hackney, fairly acknowledges the increase in security provision in her ward, as well as an additional residents' response line, the working group with residents for feedback during the event and the offer of year round security on Friday and Saturday nights. She has stated that provision fluctuated during the event. In fact, it did not fluctuate during the Wireless Festival, but there were fewer than planned on the Friday of the community weekend, but then were at full complement for the rest of the festival.
69. Councillor Potter has also referred to vibration which has been analysed by council officers and Mr. Griffiths. It is down to people dancing in the park, and is not dangerous, as confirmed by the Council's building control department and Live Nation's expert, who visited properties and analysed data, as referenced in Mr Griffith's second report (at Tab 13).
70. Councillor Potter, does, however, consider that the event is too large and should be significantly reduced. The reality, however, is that the event size is driven by the number of people who want to attend it, the safe permitted capacity of the event space, the available transport infrastructure and the economics of running events. If it were smaller, it would be impossible to get the calibre of artists which make the event attractive, and the event could not be run at all. The Council has struck the balance by limiting the number of events, limiting the space within the park they occupy, limiting their hours and ensuring that the licensing objectives are met through a thorough process of event planning and management. The result is that both the licensee and the authorities consider that the event is run consistently with the licensing objectives.
71. Councillor Selman, the Cabinet Member for Community Safety at the London Borough of Hackney, pointed to instance of street-fouling, illegal parking, use of nitrous oxide, noise nuisance, littering and ASB. She asks for an assessment of the capacity limit and hours among other matters. It is not intended to repeat the above submissions. However, in brief, the Wireless event is well-controlled in partnership with the authorities. A very large amount of resource is employed by Festival Republic in controlling the event and its impacts. There will always be some impacts from a large event, including the type of impacts referred to by the councillor. However, the view of Haringey's own officers, the Metropolitan Police, the independent auditors, Festival Republic's noise consultant and Festival Republic itself is

that impacts are well-controlled and that improvements are attainable year on year as a result of good partnership and dialogue.

72. A document entitled “Wireless Report” has recently been produced by Friends of Finsbury Park. In fairness to the Friends, it is consistent with their previous attempts to curtail events in the park through scrutiny processes and through its court challenge, which was rejected by the High Court, the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.
73. The sincerity of the Friends’ position is undoubted. Furthermore, in so far as it points out that there is some anti-social behaviour around events and inconvenience to park users, this cannot be doubted. However, the report suffers from a lack of objectivity and balance, and a tendency to elevate the anecdotal to the universal. For example, it states that “the use of drugs, in particular illegal drugs, was “ubiquitous throughout the duration of the festival in the streets surrounding the park.” It conjectures that maybe 1% of festival goers would be guilty of ASB, but equates that to 400 people, “more than enough to overwhelm a residential road”, perhaps forgetting that not all 45,000 festival goers would be in the same road, and even then not all at once. There is a suggestion that stewarding outside the immediate perimeter of the festival was minimal. It was in fact increased 650% this year. It is suggested there is no co-ordinated clean up, when the clean-up is by the London Borough of Hackney, paid for by Festival Republic. And so on.

CONCLUSION

74. Live Nation works extremely hard throughout the year, in partnership with the authorities and the local community, to mitigate all relevant impacts on the local community and to deliver a safe, well-controlled enjoyable event. It is bound by statutory duties in health and safety and fire safety legislation, contractual obligations to Haringey Council, national codes such as the Purple Guide and the Guidance for Control of Noise and Sound at Large Outdoor Events and a comprehensive licence with 113 conditions. Those conditions commit Live Nation to a detailed event planning process so as to promote the licensing objectives. Live Nation complies with these conditions.
75. It would be complacent to pretend that there are no impacts on the local community. There are, mostly because a live music event produces noise, attracts a wide variety of people, a small minority of whom are poorly behaved, and traffic. This is well-recognised both by Haringey Council and by Live Nation, who have worked assiduously over many years to control the footprint, days, hours and environmental impact of the festival. The continuing safeguards are already written into the event planning process.
76. Live Nation recognises its duties to engage with the local community to respond to concerns, both before and during the festival. It will seek out engagement and respond to engagement where offered.

The increase in security this year as a result is testament to the success of such dialogue. Live Nation also understands that a very small minority of the community is implacably opposed to large events such as Wireless. While it cannot accommodate their desires entirely, it can and does intend to continue to seek dialogue with them to mitigate their concerns so far as practicable.

77. Live Nation wishes to end by assuring the Sub-Committee that it considers it a privilege to stage its event within the borough. It does not take that privilege for granted. It will continue to do its utmost to operate with the minimum of impact on the park and neighbouring environment.

78. For the reasons given above, the Sub-Committee is invited to conclude that impacts are adequately controlled through the licence and the event planning process, and that no further intervention is required. The job of the licence is not to micro-manage the event, but to see that the event is managed properly so as to promote the licensing objectives. Judged fairly and objectively, the clear conclusion is that it is.

PHILIP KOLVIN QC

28th September 2018 Cornerstone Barristers.

London WC1

Additional documentation from Licence holder

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Tab no	Document description	Date
1	Wireless Festival 2018 Audit report	2018
2	Wireless environmental health report	July 2018
3	Wireless- Hackney Residents Feedback	Saturday 7 July
4	Letter to residents and local businesses from Melvin Benn	N/A
5	Finsbury Park Meetings	N/A
6	Table of positions/ job roles	7 July 2018
7	Event management plan version 2	30 May 2018
8	Festival Republic Finsbury Park Events 2018	6 February 2018
9	Wireless Festival Egress Summary- V4	N/A
10	Wireless Annual Security Figures Comparison/ on and off site	N/A
11	Hackney Security Deployments SIA positions	N/A
12	Hackney Environmental Operations	N/A
13	Wireless 2017 Licence Review Supplementary Noise Report of Jim Griffiths	28 September 2018
14	Email exchange between Jenifer Wilson and Daniel Earnshaw	From 21 May 2018 to 27 June 2018