

UK NOISE ASSOCIATION MANIFESTO

PAPER 9:

BACKGROUND MUSIC

Background music can be a big problem in shops, restaurants, pubs, hospitals and elsewhere

Background music can be particularly problematic when there is a 'captive audience': patients in hospital, nursing home residents, workers in shops or restaurants.

Regulate piped music and televisions in hospitals and nursing homes.

No patient should unwillingly be subjected to piped music or televisions in hospitals or nursing homes. Separate television rooms and headphones for people who want to listen to television or music in wards should be the norm, and also for outpatients.

Legislate to protect workers in shops, restaurants and elsewhere.

The piped music is sometimes loud and often very repetitive. Such inescapable forced music is particularly stress-inducing. Legislation is needed to give workers the right not to have to listen to it in the same way that non-smokers have gained the right not to have to breathe others' smoke.

Provide tax-breaks for 'muzac-free' shopping malls.

Shopping malls are in many ways like a public street. Particularly in many of the UK's smaller towns and cities, it is difficult to get what you want without visiting the mall meaning you have little choice but to listen to the music.

Create a mellow mood in venues

There is increasing interest in the work being done by companies such as Mumbli - <https://www.mumbli.com/> - to create a more mellow mood in venues. Mumbli works with bars, restaurants, cafes and hotels. Based on analysis of data collected by Mumbli's sound monitoring devices, a venue is advised on interior design (foliage, acoustic panels, soft furnishings etc) to reduce the background noise pollution to deliver safe listening sound levels and ease of conversation flow. Venues report increased trade after the work has been done.