



**OFFICE OF THE  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

2 July 2010

Kris Nicolau  
12 Slant Street  
Careys Bay  
Dunedin 9082

Dear Ms Nicolau

Thank you for your email of 22 June 2010 regarding a complaint about the noise coming from the Port Otago wharf at Port Chalmers.

On receipt of your letter, I asked Kevin Thompson, the Development Services Manager, to look into the issues you have raised.

I understand that on 10 June 2010 you lodged a noise complaint with both Environmental Health and Port Otago.

On 11 June 2010 Environmental Health were notified by Port Otago's Acoustic and Complaints Manager (this is a standard requirement between Port Otago and the Council) that you had lodged a complaint and also that you had lodged approximately 14 complaints in relation to all manner of issues over the previous two weeks.

On 11 June 2010, Wayne Boss, a Senior Environmental Health Officer, telephoned you and tried to explain how Port Otago monitored noise levels and how the Council ensured that there was compliance with the agreed noise levels. I understand that you became abusive towards him and terminated the telephone call.

The background to acceptable noise levels at Port Otago is that the Environment Court exempted Port Otago from being part of the Dunedin City Council District Plan in order to operate port activities. A five day average noise level of 67.5 dB(A) was set and Port Otago have a monitoring station in Scotia Street, Port Chalmers and another in Careys Bay recording daily noise levels 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Environmental Health meets with representatives from Port Otago, City Planning and the community every six weeks to discuss any issues, and to review monthly graphs on noise levels. The pattern is that when a ship is at Port Otago certain unloading and loading activities are undertaken and noise will peak at 70-73 dB(A) and fall to 58-65 dB(A) at other times.

In relation to your 10 June 2010 complaint Port Otago has advised that normal port activity was being undertaken with the ship 'Maersk Duffield' from its time of arrival at 5.18pm until its departure on 11 June at 10.48pm.

I understand that on 10 June 2010 the average decibel level as measured at Scotia Street was 63 dB(A) and at Careys Bay it was 61 dB(A). On 11 June the average decibel level as measured at Scotia Street was 67 dB(A) and at Careys Bay it was 66 dB(A) both which were below the agreed five day average noise level of 67.5 dB(A).

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Harland', written over the words 'Yours faithfully'.

Jim Harland  
**Chief Executive**