Note from Suzanne Scott responding to Inspector's request on 17 April 2024 for a written explanation on combining noise levels

The Table below taken from BS 5228 outlines how combining two noise levels works:

Table F.3   Addition of steady sound levels

Difference between the two levels dB(A)	Addition to the higher level dB(A)
0	3
1	3
2	2
3	2
4	1
5	1
6	1
7	1
8	1
9	1
10 and over	0

Source: British Standards Institution (2014) BS 5228: 2009+A1: 2014 Code of Practice for Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites (pdf page 143 (page 137 in document))

To confirm:
- Combining two equal noise levels results in an overall total noise level 3 dB higher e.g. 55 dB(A) plus 55 dB(A) = 58 dB(A)
- Combining two noise levels which are 10 dB(A) or more different, the total noise level is equal to the highest of the two levels e.g. 70 dB(A) plus 60 dB(A) = 70 dB(A)