

Ground (a) That planning permission should be granted for what is alleged in the notice.

We have had a surveyor to see if changing the front door would cause any damage. The report from the surveyor indicated there would be no damage to the structure at all. Furthermore, someone tried to break in through the old front and tried to damage the glass. The old glass had sharp edges and it could have been a health and safety risk. We purchased a lease in June 2023. We kept same shop front for few months but it was not good for our business. Therefore, we had to change the front to improve our business. We can still install a new front but it has to be similar to the shops around our area to keep our business going. We also applied for planning permission which we were not aware of. We did it after making changes, however, our application was refused.

Ground (b) That the breach of control alleged in the enforcement notice has not occurred as a matter of fact.

It has been stated by the council that alteration will cause harm to the building. We have done an engineering survey which shows there will be no damage with alteration.

Ground (d) That, at the time the enforcement notice was issued, it was too late to take enforcement action against the matters stated in the notice.

We sent an email to planning@camden.gov.uk on the 27th of July, asking about the planning permission. We haven't heard back and it has been 5 months. We kept the same front for a few months at least, but it was damaging our business and since we never heard back from the council we did an engineering inspection and changed the front of the shop.

Ground (f) The steps required to comply with the requirements of the notice are excessive, and lesser steps would overcome the objections.

Changing back to the old front would have a bad impact on our business. We can still install a new front but it has to be a full glass similar to the other shops in the area. If we get fewer customers it would impact our business badly. As mentioned previously, the new layout has no impact on the building structure. Changing it to a full glass front would be more beneficial for the shop as well as our business.

Ground (g) The time given to comply with the notice is too short. Please state what you consider to be a reasonable compliance period, and why.

We have just started our business and we are still in debt. It would take some time for us to settle with this business. To undergo any changes to shop again we would need a large sum of money and it would be hard for us to make any changes anytime soon.