

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

Proposal to Install a platform lift to provide DDA compliant access from the pavement level of Queens Square to Ground Floor entrance level:

National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery

23 Queen's Square,

London WC1N

DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING PROPERTY

No 23 is to the North side of Queens Square on the west side, with an adjacent Right of Way through to Guilford Street. The property register states that the freehold land was registered at the Registry on 06-12-1926. The building on the site is occupied by the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery. It is four storeys high faced mainly in Portland stone with red brick panels to the centre enclosing windows up to third floor level. There is an 1800mm area in front of the building providing light to a basement. There are six steps up from Queen's Square pavement to the entrance, framed by a Portland stone plain portico. The steps span across the area. There is 790mm high black painted steel hand railing on 125mm stone plinth at the back edge of the pavement as a barrier to the area below the pavement.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES/INTENDED USE

The primary access into the building from Queen's Square is up the six steps to the entrance. This is used by staff, patients and visitors. The intention is to provide a means of access to those who cannot negotiate the steps and to conform to the Disability Discrimination Act. The proposal is to install a platform lift by Lifthaus, or of a similar manufacture, with access from the pavement level, which can transport a wheelchair up to the Ground Floor entrance level. The existing hand railing at pavement level will be modified to match the existing hand railing to provide an access gate to the lift when called to pavement level, and closing to allow the lift to be operated to rise to entrance level. A similar gate will allow access at the upper level. When not in use the lift will remain out of view at Basement level.

SCALE

The intention is to minimise the visual impact of the proposed lift on the building to the maximum extent possible, while satisfying the statutory obligation to provide access for all into the building without discriminating against those unable to use the steps.

LANDSCAPE/APPEARANCE

The platform lift will only be visible when in use. The hand railing will be modified to match the existing as closely as possible. The existing steps will have to extend into the existing pavement by approx 600mm, (the exact extent will be established when detailed drawings are produced in conjunction with the platform lift manufacturer). All other features of the entrance will remain the same.

EFFECT

The features of the building at the main entrance and the area to be occupied by the proposed platform lift will be changed in a minimal way, the most obvious being to the hand railing adjacent to the steps from pavement level. (See attached drawings and photograph).