

Our ref: NL/ZS/CHS

Your ref:

5<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Attn: Nanayaa Ampoma  
Director of Culture and Environment  
London Borough of Camden  
Camden Town Hall, Judd Street,  
London WC1H 9JE

14 Inverness Street  
London NW1 7HJ  
Telephone: 020 7911 0166  
DX 57059 Camden Town  
Fax: 020 7911 0170  
Immigration Dept Fax: 020 7388 9036  
Email: [name]@birnbergpeirce.co.uk

Dear Madam,

**Your reference 2014/6039/P**

**Change of use from offices (Class B1A) to residential (Class C3) comprising 8 x 1 bed and 8 x 2 bed units. 8-12 Camden High Street NW1 – prior approval under class J Town and Country Planning Use Classes Order 2013 ('the Order')**

We are writing to object to the above prior approval application and are writing to support the view set out by Mr Treharne who is instructed by us and who has written separately that this should more appropriately be dealt with by a requiring an application for planning permission. His letter explains why in law an application for planning permission is the appropriate way for the Local Authority to proceed in this matter. We obviously endorse what he says and there is no need for us to repeat it herein. Instead this short letter from us sets out in summary some of the considerations that would be taken into account in such an application but which cannot be taken into account in the current application and why therefore it would be beneficial for the Local Authority to proceed by requiring an application for planning permission.

We are business tenants in the property occupying one and a half floors and have a secure lease until the middle of 2017, which we have every reason to believe that we will want to extend. We are a firm of Solicitors providing exclusively legal aid services to the community in Camden and elsewhere. With the cuts that have been made to Camden Law Centre we regularly receive referrals from them. We have an a nationwide reputation as being one of the leading firms in the Country the areas of work that we do (crime, immigration and civil litigation) and are often featured in the news. It is a benefit to the London Borough of Camden and its residents that our 2 offices are in Camden (our other office is at 14 Inverness Street, NW1) where we have been established for over 15 years.

Our 2 offices together employ over 60 people. If permission is given for the planned development to go ahead is given then it is likely that we will have to move both offices out of

*Partners*

Gareth Peirce  
Nigel Leskin  
Marcia Willis Stewart

*Practice Manager*

Dawn Elkin

*Solicitors*

Debalena Dasgupta  
Rachael Despicht  
Matt Foot  
Ronnie Graham  
Camilla Graham-Wood  
Daniel Guedalla

Sarah Kellas  
Alastair Lyon  
Sajida Malik  
Sally Middleton  
Henry Miller  
Irene Nembhard  
Barry O'Connor

Sonia Routledge  
Harriet Wistrich  
Omar Geloo

*Immigration Caseworkers*

Irfan Cangatin  
Liz Farrell  
Daniel Furner  
Arun Gananathan  
Sumiya Hems

Camden. We need to keep both offices close to each other and an initial investigation has shown that it is unlikely that we will find alternative suitable office accommodation in Camden.

Whilst we realise that these objections can not be considered if the matter proceeds as the current change of use application, these real concerns would of course be taken into account if the applicant were required to make an application for planning permission. We therefore urge you to reject their application for approval and to require a full planning permission application to be made.

Yours faithfully,



Nigel Leskin

**Birnberg Peirce & Partners**