

Our ref: NL/ZS/CHS

Your ref:

26th January 2015

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 2014/7344/P

Change of use from offices (Class B1A) to residential (Class C3) comprising 8 x 1 bed and 8 x 2 bed units 2x3 bed. 8-12 Camden High Street NW1

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 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.

Partners
Gareth Peirce
Nigel Leskin
Marcia Willis Stewart

Practice Manager
Dawn Elkin

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

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

Sonia Routledge
Harriet Wistrich
Omar Geloo

Immigration Caseworkers
Irfan Cangatin
Liz Farrell
Daniel Furner
Arun Gananathan
Sumiya Hems

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Leskin', with a long, horizontal, wavy line extending to the right.

Nigel Leskin
Birnberg Peirce & Partners