

Installation of bronze memorial bust of Lord Wolfson in Queen Square

Following our application to Camden Council to install a bronze memorial bust of Lord Leonard Wolfson in Queen Square Gardens (ref no: 9421678) we wish to address some of the unresolved concerns raised by Camden Council in relation to our application, specifically:

- Evidence of alternative locations that have been considered for siting the bust and why these have been discounted
- Why alternative forms of memorial would not be appropriate
- Why an exception to Camden's 20-year policy on memorials should be made
- Evidence of wider public support from user groups and the public for siting the bust in Queen Square.

This document addresses these concerns and is intended to act as an appendix to our previous application.

1) Alternative Locations

We have considered a number of alternative locations for the bust, including sites owned and managed by UCL or our partners, and both internal and external locations. A summary of possible alternative locations are noted below, along with reasons why the bust could not be sited in these locations.

When reviewing alternative locations we were required to bear in mind a number of factors, including the size of the bust and the fragility of the feature.

- Size - the bronze bust is 530mm high, 430mm wide and 305mm deep and the base must measure at least 700mm in length. This means the total height of the feature will be a minimum of 1230mm so any space must be large enough for the bust to be sited safely.
- Fragility - we have been strongly advised by the stone carvers and sculptor who have designed and created the bust and plinth that we would not be able to remove it once it is in location. The plinth is rugged and delicate in places and must be put in its permanent home when installed.

<i>Internal locations</i>	<i>Reasons why bust cannot be sited here</i>
The Leonard Wolfson Experimental Neurology Centre	<p>The only available space in the Centre is the waiting room, however, it is not suitable due to a lack of space. The site is shown in Fig 1. in Appendix 1. To locate the bust here would require removing a number of patient waiting chairs, which would have a detrimental impact on patient comfort and experience.</p> <p>The only other spaces within the Centre are clinical areas and siting the bust in these would pose concerns with infection control from the hospital's perspective.</p>
Foyer of the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery	<p>The foyer (Fig. 2 in Appendix 1) is currently saturated with furniture, hospital signage and notice boards and locating the bust in this space would require a complete redesign and remodelling of the space. Remodelling the foyer, however, would disrupt the movement through the hospital's main thoroughfare for the 244 in-patients, day patients, staff and visitors to the hospital.</p> <p>We are also constrained by some fixed features. The walls of the foyer hold wooden plaques with gold inscriptions listing the hospital's consulting staff (Fig. 3 in Appendix 1) and there is a bust of Diana, Princess of Wales, former Patron of the Hospital, which was unveiled in 1992 (Fig. 4 in the Appendix 1).</p>

The UCL Institute of Neurology	This will only be a temporary site for the bust as within the next two years the Institute will undergo a complete refurbishment. As we are not able to remove the bust once it is in situ for the reasons noted above, once building work commences it could be severely damaged or destroyed.
External locations	Reasons why bust cannot be sited here
Adjacent to the UCL Institute of Neurology	There is an external location adjacent to Queen Square House, where UCL owns a narrow strip of land between the back edge of the public footpath and the building. This plot, however, will be part of the redevelopment site for Queen Square House so, for the points noted above, if the bust is located there it would be at risk of damage once redevelopment of the Institute begins.
Outside the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery	There is no suitable external location on hospital property. On the left hand side of the main entrance there is an entrance ramp, which cannot be blocked for accessibility reasons, and on the right hand side there is a light well, meaning there is no base on which to install the bust.
UCL Central Campus	UCL are about to fully embark on a 10 year programme of works with major construction projects about to commence on site. These projects are all in and around the campus and adjacent to listed structures. As a result, UCL do not wish any additional structures on central campus which may hinder projects, or be at risk of being damaged during the programme of works.
Gordon or Woburn Squares (both owned and managed by University of London)	The squares underwent a full restoration in 2006 and are now managed to encourage wildlife by ensuring that areas around the perimeter are left relatively undisturbed. With this in mind, the committee feel that the squares have reached their saturation limit with memorials and further additions would change the character of the squares. They are, therefore, not currently accepting applications for new memorials.

UCL's favoured location of Queen Square Gardens is particularly important due to Lord Wolfson's connection to neuroscience and the activity at Queen Square. In 2011 the Foundation established a special award in memory of Lord Wolfson. This one-off award aimed to support outstanding research that could make significant advances in the understanding and treatment of neurological diseases. The Foundation viewed the activity at Queen Square as particularly special and thus established a neurodegenerative research and treatment centre in the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery.

The bust will not only commemorate the Wolfson Foundation's award and the important contribution Lord Wolfson's legacy has had to the study and treatment of neurodegenerative diseases, but will also recognise the importance and reputation of all the neurology activity at Queen Square. Queen Square has become one of the world's leading neuroscience research and clinical hubs. With the increasing global impact and importance of neurological diseases and conditions, and central government's pledge to continue investment into dementia, the work at Queen Square's medical facilities will continue to play a vital role in the UK's contribution to the understanding and treatment of neurological diseases.

2) Alternative styles of memorial

Alternative forms of memorial	Why these are not suitable
Plaque	<p>Typically, there are very few plaques in public spaces which are not attached to a physical structure, such as a bench, memorial bust or a building.</p> <p>We are not able to install a plaque on the frontage of the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery due to the confusion this may cause to hospital users. It is essential the hospital frontage remains the same and retains its clear name.</p>

Bench	There are a number of memorial benches already situated in Queen Square and no further benches are being accepted in the gardens.
Memorial event	<p>While a public event would be an excellent way to celebrate the work of Lord Wolfson and the Wolfson Foundation, we would not be able to involve the Wolfson family in this due to their very personal association with the subject matter.</p> <p>It would not be appropriate to ask them to host a public event in honour of their late father/grandfather, nor would it be suitable for UCL to host this event without the family's involvement.</p>

3) Making an exception to the 20-year policy

Although Lord Wolfson passed away four years ago, his philanthropic activities throughout his lifetime were exceptional and very forward thinking in the UK. The bust is considered to be a celebration of his life and his contribution to society through his philanthropy.

Lord Wolfson was an active supporter of a number of Camden based organisations. The first noted Wolfson gift to a Camden based project was in 1958 to support the development of student halls of residences on Cartwright Gardens. Since then, donations over £100 million in real terms have been directed to Camden based organisations, including UCL, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the British Library, Great Ormond Street Hospital, the British Museum, UCLH, Birkbeck College, SOAS, the Royal Academy of Music, the Royal College of Physicians, the Jewish Museum, The Pirate Club, the Charles Dickens Museum, Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, Goodenough College, The Roundhouse and The Place. Lord Wolfson's philanthropic support ensured these institutions and many others in Camden could be sustained and improved, benefiting the borough and the UK more widely.

Lord Wolfson himself was a prominent public figure. He was knighted in 1977 and became a Life Peer in 1985 with the title Baron Wolfson of Marylebone. He was elected an Honorary Fellow of the British Academy in 1986, and Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society in 2005.

In regards to Lord Wolfson's reputation and that of the Foundation, UCL undertakes a strict due diligence and gift acceptance process before we accept philanthropic funding from a private individual or organisation. Full due diligence has been undertaken on the Wolfson Foundation and the family, and we have not found any evidence to suspect that Lord Wolfson, or the Wolfson family, would pose any reputation risk for associated parties. As a registered UK charity, the Wolfson Foundation is also bound by law to submit an annual report. This requires the Foundation's full accounts to be submitted and information on the Foundation's work, where its assets come from and how the money has been spent over the past year. This is then reviewed by the Charity Commission, who ensures all registered charities are legitimate.

Appendix 1 – Images of alternative locations



Figure 1 – the Leonard Wolfson Experimental Neurology Centre patient waiting room

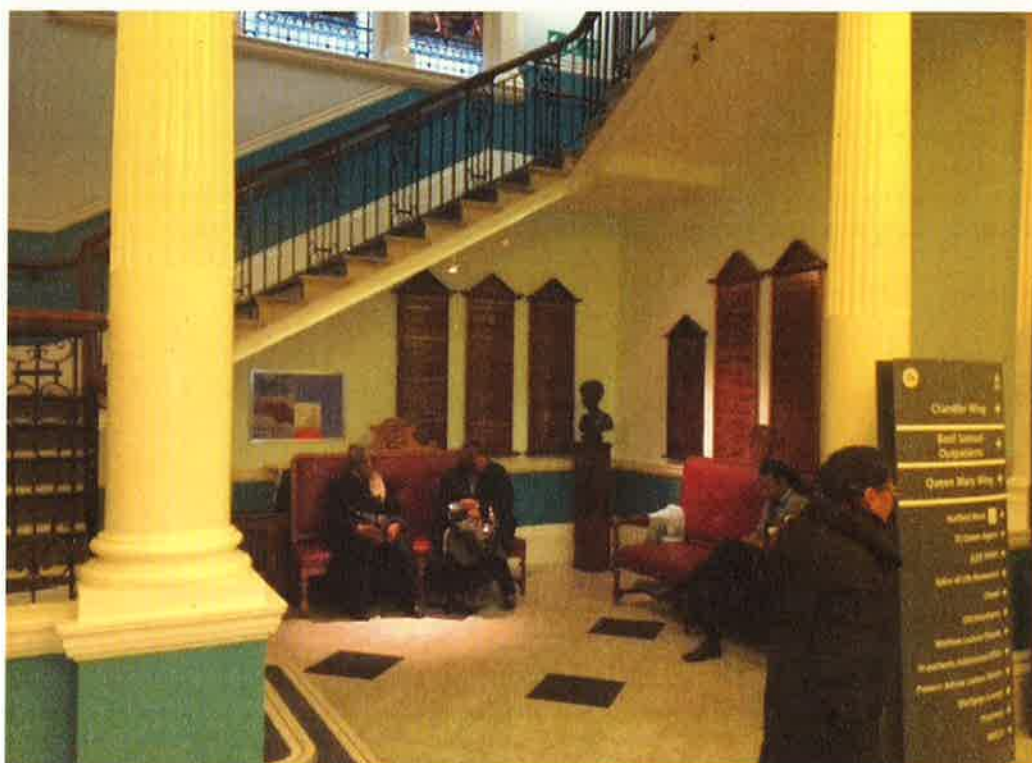


Figure 2 – the foyer of the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery



Figure 3 – Consulting Staff notice boards in the foyer of the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery



Figure 4 – bust of H.R.H. Diana, Princess of Wales, former Patron of the National Hospital of Neurology and Neurosurgery, located in the foyer of the Hospital