



Mr Michael Cassidy
Development Control
Camden Council
5 Pancras Square
London
N1C 4AG

28 August 2015

Dear Mr Cassidy,

**LETTER IN SUPPORT
BLOOMSBURY RESEARCH INSTITUTE: 15-17 TAVISTOCK PLACE
PLANNING APPLICATION 2015/3406/P**

I write as Director of Research of the Francis Crick Institute and Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Medical Research Council in support of the planning application for the development of the Bloomsbury Research Institute, on whose Board I am privileged to sit.

As you know, the Bloomsbury Research Institute (BRI) has been formed as a partnership between the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and University College London, and builds on the considerable strength of those two organisations in research into infectious disease.

The partnership could hardly have arisen at a more propitious time, with the very great threat posed to health in the UK and abroad by antimicrobial resistance. Indeed, Dame Sally Davies, the Government's Chief Medical Officer, has emphasised that the problem of microbes becoming resistant to the most powerful drugs should be ranked alongside terrorism and climate change on the list of critical risks to the nation. It is only by bringing together the very best researchers in the very best environments that we shall solve this problem, and I see the BRI as playing a key role in the effort.

One of the particular strengths of the Institute will be its location. In particular, it will be close to large hospitals including University College London Hospital and Great Ormond Street; it will be near its parent institutions with opportunities for collaboration in areas such as chemistry and computational biology; and it will be close to the Francis Crick Institute, which in turn will provide links to London's other great Universities such as Imperial College London and King's College London.

As someone involved in the design of the BRI (as I was in the design of the Francis Crick Institute) I can confirm that the building will encourage collaboration and innovative approaches to complex problems. It will train young researchers in this important area of biomedical research and it will certainly punch well above its weight both nationally and internationally.



Imperial College
London



wellcome trust



I have no doubt that the Bloomsbury Research Institute will be a source of great pride to the local area, and I do hope that Camden Council will look favourably on the proposal. It certainly has my strongest support.

Yours sincerely,



Jim Smith, PhD, FRS, FMedSci
Director of Research, Francis Crick Institute
Deputy CEO, Medical Research Council

PROFESSOR ANDREW STEPTOE
DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND
HEALTH CARE



01 September 2015

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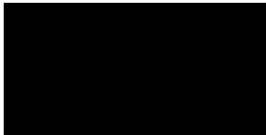
Dear Mr Cassidy,

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I write in support of the planning application for the development of the Bloomsbury Research Institute and in my capacity as Director of the Institute of Epidemiology and Health Care at UCL.

The proposed Institute is a unique partnership combining the internationally recognised and complementary strengths of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and UCL in infectious disease research. The development of this institute comes at a critical time, given the urgent and obvious need to tackle major health challenges such as emerging diseases and antimicrobial resistance. This is work in which my colleagues in this Institute have an important part to play. The new building will house over 200 experts in the best possible environment, enabling multi-disciplinary collaborations and innovative approaches to complex problems. The site is in the heart of the Bloomsbury campus. The location will enable the Institute to build on partnerships with the NHS, exploiting the close proximity to large hospitals including UCLH and GOSH, and collaborate with nearby research centres such as the Francis Crick Institute. The Institute will be a valuable asset to the local area and the biomedical research landscape and I very much hope sincerely hope that Camden Council will look favourably on the proposal.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Steptoe MA, DPhil, DSc, FAcSS, FMedSci
Director, Institute of Epidemiology and Health Care
British Heart Foundation Professor of Psychology