



Academy / A+

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22nd Feb 2016

Dear Zenab,

Further to the planning application reference 2016/0477/P at

34-41 New Oxford Street
10-12 Museum Street
16A-18 West Central Street

I am writing to comment on this application so that my views and concerns may be taken into account before a decision is passed.

I am the owner of Academy Films. We have traded from 16 West Central Street for the past 15 years, and have just agreed a new lease with our landlords for the next 5 years. We occupy approximately 6000 square feet over 3 floors and can have 50 or so people working in the building at any given time, producing television commercials, music videos and online advertising content.

The vast majority of our work is phone and meeting based, in an open plan production space and board rooms, but we also have a casting suite and pack-shot studio where small sets and close-ups are filmed. The proposed building works surround our premises on 2 sides and are directly below us. The noise generated will make it impossible to conduct business on the phone and in our meeting rooms, and the vibrations will make it impossible to use our studio.

Furthermore, the street itself is very narrow with limited one-way access. Even if the noise and vibrations didn't make conducting business impossible, the increased traffic and/or blocked street use will disrupt access to our offices by clients and couriers. And the inevitable dust and construction vehicle pollution in our immediate vicinity will make inviting clients to our offices impossible as well as potentially compromising the health of our employees. The scaffolding around our building will also present a security risk for the equipment used and kept here, and the staff who often have to work late into the night.

While I am not necessarily against plans to renovate the decaying empty buildings in the area, the size and extent of the proposed development will make it impossible to continue trading from these premises while they are conducted.

I would welcome the opportunity to be able to discuss this negative effect on my business further.

Yours Sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Elizabeth Gower.

Elizabeth Gower