



Historic England

LONDON OFFICE

Mrs Antonia Powell
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Our ref: L00511501

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Dear Mrs Powell

UCL MAIN BUILDING , GOWER STREET, LONDON, WC1E 6BT

Thank you for your consultation of 19 May 2016 regarding a listed building consent application for the Grade I listed Wilkins Building at the University College London campus in Bloomsbury. These proposals involve the installation of luminaires to the colonnade pilasters in the Donaldson Library to improve the existing emergency lighting provision.

The Donaldson Library has a richly decorated interior and the installation of lighting and associated cabling along its prominent colonnade would reduce its aesthetic qualities in our view. Also, although the luminaires would be surface mounted, the specification provided suggests that the associated junction box would require drilling into the historic fabric. These proposals would therefore cause some harm to the architectural significance of the Wilkins Building in our view.

In accordance with Paragraph 132 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), any harm requires clear and convincing justification. Whilst we recognise the need to provide safe and secure access for all students to and from the library, we would normally expect to see less visually intrusive options explored for highly graded buildings such as this. We therefore recommend that alternative options are explored, and we would be very happy to meet on site to discuss how this might be achieved.

Yours sincerely

Alasdair Young

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