Mr Nick Baxter Direct Dial: 020 7973 3765

London Borough of Camden

Town Hall Our ref: L00528318

Argyle Street

London

WC1H 8ND 4 October 2016

Dear Mr Baxter

**Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications Direction 2015 &**

**T&CP (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015**

**ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH ROSSLYN HILL LONDON NW3 2PP**

**Application No 2016/4969/L**

Thank you for your letter of 19 September 2016 notifying us of the application for listed building consent relating to the above site. We do not wish to comment in detail, but offer the following general observations.

**Historic England Advice**

Whilst I support the principle and proposed methods to monitor this grade I listed building during construction works at the neighbouring Royal Free Hospital, I suggest that further consideration be given to the proposed fixing details to ensure that the equipment will cause no harm to the fabric of the building, in particular its fine brickwork and stone detailing.

Rather than fixing the screws to hold the brackets into the mortar (and possibly the brickwork if a suitable location cannot be found), it would be more appropriate to fix marine plywood sections to the building into which the bracket and appliance can subsquently be fitted. The plywood would need to be approximately 18mm thick and the screws fitted into the mortar rather than the brickwork. This approach has been taken on other highly grade buildings and would be fully reversible with no impact on its fabric. As this would be visually more intrusive, I suggest that the equipment be painted out to match the historic building which will help to allievate its impact, particularly as it is likely to be in situ for some time.

Conditions would need to be attached to any consent granted to ensure that the equipment, cabling and fixings be removed at the end of the monitoring process. The application does not identify how long the equipment is required or the methodology/arrangements/timescale for its removal at the end of the project. This could be included within the proposals to help reduce the need to impose several detailed conditions. Similarly, the wiring clips should be fixed into the mortar rather than the brickwork. This should be explict within the methodology or included within the conditions.

I appreciate that this is is a higher level of specification than that proposed in the application. However, given the high significance of the building and the great aesthetic value of its fabric, it is important that opportunities to remove the risk of damage to the building be eliminated from the monitoring process.

**Recommendation**

Providing that the above issues are addressed, we would be minded to direct as to the granting of listed building consent. We therefore look forward to notification of the necessary revisions to the proposals.

Please note that this response relates to listed building matters only. If there are any archaeological implications to the proposals it is recommended that you contact the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service for further advice (Tel: 020 7973 3712).

Yours sincerely

**Breda Daly**

Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas

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