

Planning statement

Change of use of Room 432 from B1 to Dual B1/D1

Room 432, (4th floor)

Hamilton House
Mabledon Place
London

WC1H 9BB

June 2017
London Borough of Camden

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this planning application is to change the use of Room 432 within Hamilton House, Mabledon Place from B1 office use, to allow a D1 general practitioner consultation clinic to be operated by DocTap Ltd (<https://doctap.co.uk/>).

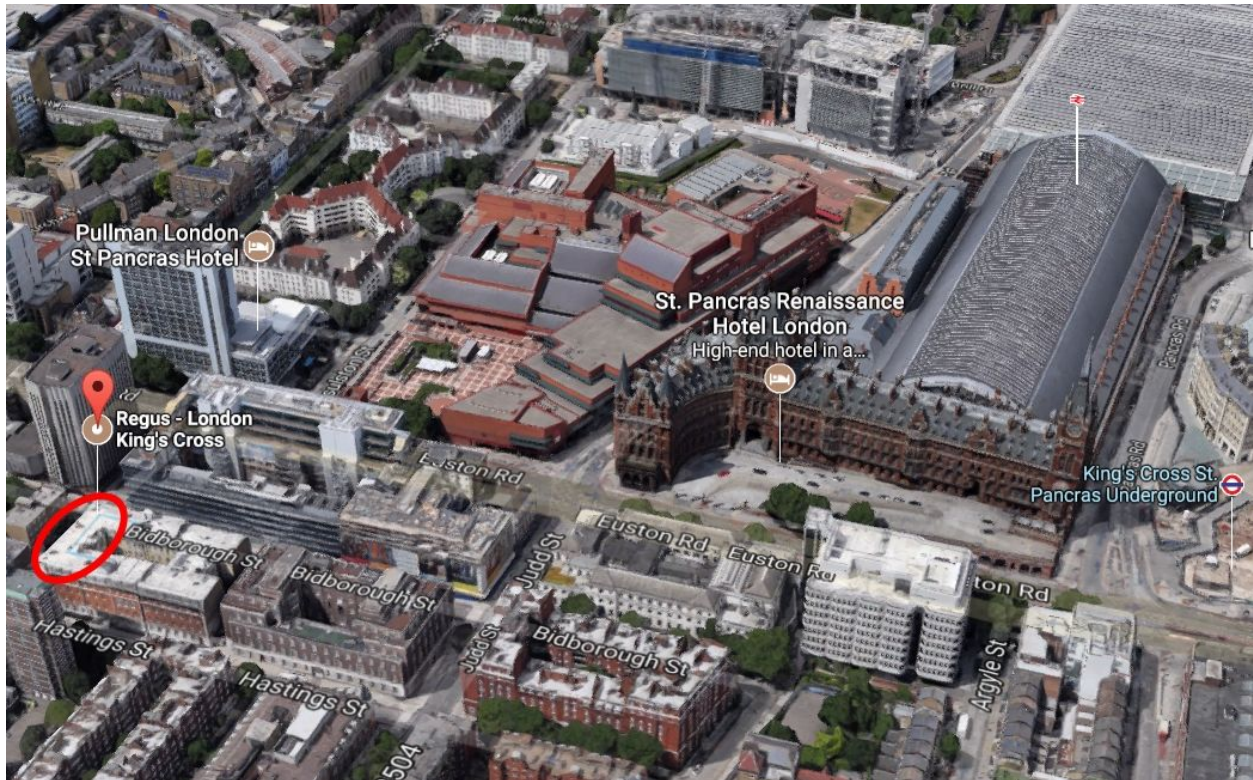
The proposed use is a “dual” use of B1/D1 to allow flexible use of the room, and to allow it to readily be reverted back to B1 (the original use) should this be necessary in the future.

DocTap provide affordable, convenient general practice consultations for diagnosis, treatment and general medical advice. DocTap Ltd employs fully trained specialist general practitioners.

Proposal Site



Site Location



2. Site context

Local area

Hamilton House is a business centre made up of serviced offices, meeting rooms and a small amount of restaurant space located on the ground floor.

The building itself is a 5 storey office building, situated on the east side of Mabledon Place. The building is accessed on the ground floor through the communal reception area. There are stairs and elevators to reach the upper floors.

The surrounding area has a variety of uses and character. Shops, bars and restaurants make up much of the ground levels, with offices and residential uses above.

The site has excellent transport provision, with Kings Cross, St Pancras International and Euston stations all within 0.3 miles. The nearest bus stop is 150 metres away providing access to the local and wider bus network.

Site designation

Hamilton House is not a listed building. It falls within the Bloomsbury area. This application does not require any external or internal alterations to the building.

Flooding

National Planning Policy requires planning applications be mindful of the risk of flooding. The Environment Agency's latest flood datasets show the site to be located within flood zone 1 (no risk).

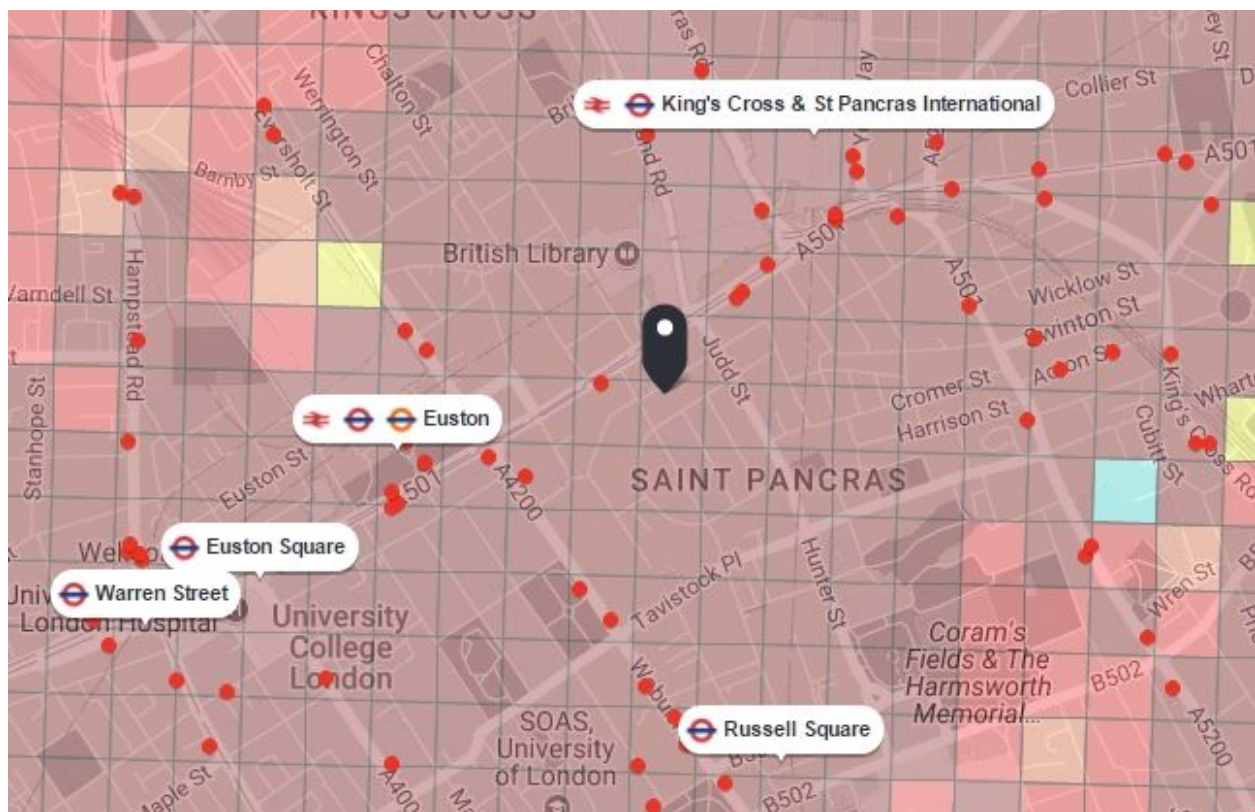


PTAL map

The PTAL score provides a guide to how accessible a site is by public transport.

According to the PTAL WebCAT from Transport for London, the proposal site has a score of 6B (Best Score).

This is especially relevant for this application, as prospective patients would have a number of transport options available to them for reach the clinic.



Planning History

Relevant applications in the immediate vicinity which should be considered as material consideration include:

344-354 Grays Inn Rd - ref: 2016/1098P

Change of use from B1(office) to B1/D1 use (private GP office). GRANTED 2016.

1 Mabledon Place - ref: 2014/2942/P

Change of use from flexible use within Classes A1/A2/A3 to flexible use within Classes B1/A1/A2/A3 of ground floor commercial unit. APPROVED 2014.

3. Proposal

The proposal looks to change the use of Room 432 to a dual B1/D1 use to allow the lawful operation of a general practitioner clinic by a successful growing business.

Many workers in London would like the convenience of seeing a GP near to where they work rather than having to take time off to see their GP where they live.

DocTap are a successful, growing business providing affordable, excellent, convenient GP services to people in central London.

DocTap have treated over 4000 patients from the 2 existing clinics a Bond Street and Spitalfields. Over 1300 patients have reviewed the service with 97% recommending it to friends and family. 15 minute face to face consultations start from £29, making convenient, excellent private GP care available to everyone.

The vast majority of DocTap patients have never previously used private healthcare. Patients range from office workers, the self employed, London residents, students and visitors. Please visit <https://doctap.co.uk/GP-Reviews> for a full list of every patient review.

Proposed opening times are:

- Monday to Friday: 08:30 - 19:00
- Saturday - Sunday : Closed

The proposal will not require any external or internal alterations to the building.

Patients will utilise the current means of access into the building from Mabledon Place.

Any medical waste will be stored in sealed bins located inside the clinic room and will be collected by a professional clinical waste collection company with whom DocTap have a contract.

4. Sustainable development

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is concerned with promoting sustainable development in the UK. This states that there should be an automatic **presumption in favour of sustainable development.**

The NPPF puts heavy emphasis on looking at local needs, and promptly approving sustainable proposals. The NPPF identifies three components of a sustainable development:

- An Economic Role
- A Social Role
- An Environmental Role

The following tests have been made against each component:

Economic role

The clinic provides employment for trained medical professionals and supporting staff. DocTap's unique offering of convenient, affordable and above all outstanding healthcare is in huge demand. In the current economic climate expansion of successful, local businesses should be encouraged.

By providing people in central London with fast, convenient access to healthcare, DocTap reduces absenteeism through people taking time off to wait for their home GP. By make healthcare so readily accessible, DocTap can improve productivity as patients are no longer put off visiting a GP.

The proposal will also make use of an empty office room.

A social role

By providing high quality, convenient GP care, the clinic will improve the lives and health of people in the area.

Please take a moment to read what people are saying about DocTap on our website, Google and Facebook. When people are unwell, getting better is practically the only thing many people can think of. Yet getting to see a qualified doctor can be impossibly difficult. The level of affection and passion people have for DocTap at our Bond Street and Spitalfields clinics is astonishing. It would be a pleasure to be able to help people near Kings Cross in the same way.

An environmental role

The site is in a very accessible location, reducing traveling for people who work in the area and require the service.

The proposal is to make use of existing premises. The re-use of commercial premises for alternative mixed uses with positive benefits should be supported.

5. Planning Policy Assessment

Local Planning Policy

The current Camden Local Plan is made of of the Core Strategy (CS), Development Policies (DP), London Plan and Supplementary Planning guidance.

Policies CS1 and CS2 highlight the King's Cross as one of the five major growth areas in central London. The council is looking to ensure King's Cross is a vibrant, safe and attractive area with a mix of uses, including community uses.

CS16 concerns improving the health and well-being facilities within Camden. This states that "The Council will support the provision of additional health care facilities and will work with NHS Camden and other service providers to make sure the borough has a necessary supply and distribution of premises to meet Camden's health care needs".

DP13 seeks to limit change of use from employment space to non-business use, unless certain criteria are met. This application proposes a dual use to allow the unit

to return back to a B1 office at the time that DocTap leave the site. Therefore, no current or future occupiers of the building will be adversely affected.

DocTap are looking to invest in the local area by providing essential, highly sought after services for both workers and residents in the area. The business will bring employment to the local area as well as footfall to the immediate vicinity from nearby parts of London.

DocTap will be making effective use of empty office space, whilst not reducing the space available for employment.

A report (Business Premise Study 2011) was commissioned by the London Borough of Camden to look at the availability of employment space. It finds that there is no shortage of office space in the Borough in either the short or long term. Additionally, current uncertainties in the UK and London economies make it all the more pressing to support successful small businesses.

London Plan

The London Plan recognises that a growing London population is likely to support an expanding economy, and that it will give rise to a growing demand for healthcare and related services.

Policy 2.13 says it looks to: "...optimise residential and non-residential output and densities, provide necessary social and other infrastructure to sustain growth, and, where appropriate, contain a mix of uses."

Policy 2.12 states 'Borough's should enhance and promote the unique international, national and London wide roles of Central Activity Zones (CAZ), supporting the distinct offer of the Zone based on a rich mix of local as well as strategic uses.'

Policy 2.11 (g) specifies that the plan is looking to:

'Ensure development complements and supports the clusters of other strategically important CAZ uses including legal, health, academic, state and 'special' uses while also recognising the mixed nature of the CAZ.

The mayor's plan states under policy 4.2 of the London Plan:

The Mayor will and boroughs and other stakeholders should support the management and mixed use development and redevelopment of office provision to improve London's competitiveness and to address the wider objectives of this Plan, including enhancing its varied attractions for businesses of different types and sizes including small and medium sized enterprises.

The London Plan, along with other local policies looks to encourage and protect appropriate mixed use of the area, including local services and healthcare.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) consists of Government guidance on Planning Policy, to which local planning authorities are required to adhere. The NPPF outlines a number of 'core planning principles'.

- Not simply be about scrutiny, but instead be a creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and improve places in which people live their lives

- Proactively drive and support sustainable economic development
- Seek to secure a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings
- Encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed (brownfield land)
- Actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling
- Take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all

The proposed development meets all of these core principles by efficiently and effectively making use of an existing office unit for the benefit of local health, residents and workers.

Alongside these principles, chapter 8 of the NPPF focuses on supporting healthy communities. The D1 use of this proposal will assist in this regard.

6. Conclusion

It is believed that this proposal is in line with local and national planning policy and meets the aims of sustainable development.

The application will allow for a successful, modern and growing business to expand to reach more patients, benefiting those living and working in the area and promoting a sustainable mix of uses.

The proposal will provide high quality, convenient medical services to people in the area. People working in the area will need to take less time off work. Fewer people will delay seeing a doctor, meaning faster diagnosis and treatment. Local businesses will benefit from reduced absenteeism and healthier staff.

The change of use will not in any way alter the operation of the unit. There will be no external alterations and patients will make use of the existing access. It will make use of a currently empty office room.

There is recent precedent for similar changes of uses in the immediate vicinity.

Based on the points raised in this document, I respectfully request that planning permission be granted.