

Muthoora, Leela

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 June 2017 12:41
To: Planning
Cc: Consult
Subject: 2017/2934/P - University College London, Wilkins Quad, Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT

Categories: Red Category

Dear John,

2017/2934/P - University College London, Wilkins Quad, Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT

Thank you for consulting the Georgian Group on the above application.

The proposed development has the potential to affect the setting of the Grade I listed college central block by W. Wilkins, and the Grade II listed observatories within its quad. The main college building is a good example of Wilkins' severe Neo-Grecian style, with a large decastyle Corinthian pedimented portico on a high podium. Rising behind the pediment is the copper dome and stone lantern of the Flaxman Gallery, by T. L. Donaldson.

The central college building forms the focus of a formal quad with a clear axial alignment. The proposed temporary building has the potential to affect this relationship. The northernmost part of the building should be set as far to the south as possible to minimise its visual impact when viewed from the entrance and approach to the quad. Visibility of the building from these positions would harm the symmetrical and highly formal composition of the quad. The proximity of the proposed building to the Grade II listed observatory is also problematic, harming its setting and screening its visibility from the approach to the quad. Greater clearance between the east side of the proposed building and the observatory should be allowed, creating clear sightlines of the building from all sides.

If minded to grant permission, your authority should take every measure to ensure that the building is truly temporary. There are many examples of buildings and structures from across London that were granted temporary permission but have remained in place long after their approval has lapsed. The temporary nature of the building also requires a robust assessment of its materiality. Your authority should be satisfied that the proposed materials would be suitable for the duration of any approval and would not unduly deteriorate, increasing the visual impact of the building over time.

Please keep me informed of the progress of the application.

Best wishes,
Zach

[REDACTED]
South East Caseworker



*The Georgian Group
6 Fitzroy Square*



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