The Institute of Materials,
Minerals and Mining

The global network for
the materials cycle

Robert Lester
Planning Officer
Regeneration and Planning
Supporting Communities
London Borough of Camden
2nd Floor, 5 Pancras Square
London N1C 4AG

19 January 2018

Dear Robert

Thanks for the call yesterday. Regarding completion of the application, the additional elevation and related 1st and 2nd floor plans are attached, which are all drawn up by CSK Ltd.

To gain a better understanding of the duct location, I am including two other photographs looking upward from the 1st floor (Figure 1) and a second looking down from the 5th (top) floor (Figure 2). With these illustrations, I hope we can satisfactorily confirm:

a) The duct is continuous to the roof and does not output air at any other level;
b) The duct is secured to our own property and adjoins our own windows related to our internal stairwell;
c) The duct is completely captured within the lightwell with no visibility from the street pavement;
d) The duct and fan system were installed and commissioned in September 2015 and has therefore been in routine use for over two years.

You commented upon the aesthetics of the duct within the lightwell. The duct is secured to a white tile facade which is continuous around all four sides of the lightwell. The bright steel appearance of the structure is sensitive to this backround, since a darker surface colour would provide a stark and more obvious feature. (Figure 2)

Interestingly, Figure 3 illustrates the collection of third party air conditioning units at 1st floor level that service our neighbour's office premises in their half of the lightwell space. The photograph is taken from our first floor office windows to reflect equivalent aesthetics considerations alongside our duct.

When the original noise survey was completed (results already provided) the standard required us operate the fan equipment consistently at full operating capacity and to measure the output noise. You may recall that to minimise any noise problems to our neighbours we modified our operating practice to ensure a lower noise level at 6 am, only increasing fan speed after 8 am. The second series of results generated recently by our Noise specialist are attached at Table 1.

At the modified practice (6 am start fan speed 2) we see a significantly reduced noise level than recorded at maximum in the earlier noise assessment. To our knowledge we have received no complaints relating to early morning noise since this operating practice was implemented. Other data in this table record sound levels at different settings for the fan, to show how the overall noise levels can be limited through fan speed selection and that at maximum we recorded the same levels as recorded in our initial assessment.

The overriding conclusion from this work confirms that with the operating practice we presently use, the noise output from the fans in the early morning and within the lightwell is only just over the level of background noise. We would be keen to discuss with your environmental officer how we can improve further and I am happy to visit your office if this is more effective.