

Statement from the Applicant

Flats 7 and 8, Oak Hill House, London, NW3

We, Mr and Mrs Alekseev, write in relation to the application for the proposal under planning application ref: 2018/6327/P which seeks planning consent for the conversion of 2 x 2 bedroom flats into a 1 x 4 bedroom flat, creation of a roof terrace with associated works. Mrs Alexeeva is the Applicant; Mr Alekseev is her husband.

We set out our personal circumstances below and believe we demonstrate exceptional circumstances to allow the two flats to be converted to one larger flat for the following reasons:

- We purchased the flats in March 2018 with the intention of converting them to one larger flat to meet our growing family's needs. The offer and exchange went ahead before the referendum on the Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan which took place in June 2018;
- Before purchasing the flats, we had carried out extensive research and the cost of converting the two flats to meet the needs of our family was a far more affordable option than buying a 4 bedroom house in the local area. The cost of a family house within the local area is prohibitive which would either require us to live in cramped conditions in a smaller unit or we would have to move out of the area;
- We are a young family and with two daughters; one is at a local school and the other is at a local nursery, and we are expecting a third child;
- Mr Alexeev, has elderly parents that often come over from abroad to visit or stay to assist with childcare;
- Not allowing the conversion would mean there aren't sufficient options available to be able to provide accommodation locally when Mr Alexeev's parents come to stay, and we would therefore need to consider moving out of the area or see less of them;
- Mrs Alexeev's mother lives in the neighbouring property to the Oak Hill House and it is important to us that we foster a strong family environment and we regularly share meals as an extended family;
- Mrs Alexeev's mother lives close to us and often assists us with childcare and school drop offs and pickups;

- We run a local business in Hampstead and our daughters attend a local school, the conversion of these flats would provide continuity to our working lives, especially knowing my mother can assist us when required; and
- The existing roof requires repairs, this application provides the opportunity to carry out the repair works otherwise the tenants of the existing building would need to pay for the roof repairs themselves.

We request that our case is looked at on its merits and a degree of flexibility should be applied in applying Policy HC1 of the Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan. We would like to continue to live and work in the local area supported by our extended family.