



Mr McClue
Camden Council
Camden Planning Office
218 Eversholt Street
London
NW1 1BD

19 July 2019

Dear Mr McClue,

I am writing to express my strongest support for the proposed development of the new UCL Institute of Neurology / UK Dementia Research Institute (UK DRI) building at 256 Gray's Inn Road.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is the major funder of the UK DRI and in partnership with Alzheimer's Research UK and the Alzheimer's Society, has committed £290m to establish this Institute, which began operation in 2018. The UK DRI will provide a game-changing approach in support of biomedical research to address the major public health challenge of dementia.

The proposed building in 256 Gray's Inn Road will become the centrepiece for the Institute, and provide world-class facilities to accelerate research progress, catalyse recruitment of scientific talent and attract inward investment to Camden, London and the wider UK.

Through helping find treatments for the neurological diseases that give rise to dementia, significant benefits will be provided to the UK economy through reducing the cost of managing this devastating condition. Neurological diseases currently affect four million people in the UK at an estimated cost of £11.2 billion every year. The proposed development will also provide benefits to Camden via local job creation, the expansion of much needed NHS outpatient facilities for neurological treatment, and reinvigoration of the locality around the site, providing new community facilities and landscaped spaces.

Yours sincerely



Professor Fiona Watt FRS FMedSci
Executive Chair

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