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London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
TP1 Entrance Door & Ramp

Design & Access Statement

Proposal

This application seeks permission for the replacement of the existing timber door and frame at the east end of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine 'TP1' building at 15-17 Tavistock Place. The proposal is to replace the door and frame, which face onto Tavistock Place, with a new glazed timber door within a new timber frame. The application also seeks permission for the formation of a new ramp and associated kerbs and railings to provide a wheelchair accessible entrance, together with refurbishment of the adjacent existing ironwork gates to the east end passageway.

Features of the existing site

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine 'TP1' building at 15-17 Tavistock Place (c. 1904) is constructed in brick with a basement and four floors above. The principal elevation facing onto Tavistock Place is constructed in brick on the upper storeys. The ground floor is predominantly in ashlar with arched windows and projecting key stones. Existing doors are in dark stained wood.

Tavistock Place is a wide and busy street that is mixed in character with a larger proportion of buildings dating from the later 19th and early 20th centuries. Large institutional buildings line the north side of the street, with early 19th century Burton terraces extending along the south side. Red brick and ornate detailing predominate on the larger scale mansion blocks

Existing external doors vary in character along the street, and are constructed from a range of materials including timber, glass, and aluminium, although the predominant material is timber, often incorporating glazed vision panels. The immediate context of the existing LSHTM building includes timber doors of various styles of paneled construction.



Figure 1: Existing LSHTM building TP1 to north side of Tavistock Place.



Figure 2: Existing timber doors to TP1 building of various styles.



Figure 3: Existing gates to east side passage of existing LSHTM building TP1.

Access

In the location of the proposed works the existing internal floor level of the LSHTM TP1 building is raised above the external pavement level by approximately 200mm. The proposed external ramp has been designed to provide level access to create a wheelchair accessible entrance to the new reception area within the building.

A raised kerb on either side of the ramp is proposed in order to comply with the requirements of the building regulations Approved Document M (Access to Buildings other than Dwellings).

Railings on either side of the ramp incorporating handrails will provide assistance to ambulant disabled users.

The new door threshold will be level.

The proposed new door will comply with the requirements of the building regulations part M1(a).

Layout

The new door and frame will replace the existing pair of doors and frame within the existing structural opening. The doors will sit within the existing external stonework opening which will remain.

Addressing the existing internal and external levels and the external space available between the rear edge of the pavement and the building, the ramp layout has been designed to achieve a gradient of less than 1:12 to comply with the ramp gradient requirement in building regulations Approved Document M.

The ramp has been splayed in plan to provide a welcoming approach to the new reception area from the street.

The size of the ramp has been designed to enable the adjacent existing gate, leading from the top of a metal escape stair, to be retained.

Scale, Appearance & Landscaping

The proposed doors will fit within the existing stonework structural opening. The existing glazed fanlight above the doors will be retained.

The proposed doors will be constructed from timber with a traditional stile and rail construction. The panels will be in glass with timber moulding details, with an applied manifestation design incorporating the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine logo and name.

The works include the refurbishment of the existing metal gates to the east end passageway. This will include removal of the existing mesh paneling and re-decoration of the gates, improving their aesthetic quality and contribution to the streetscape.

The length of the ramp has been designed to achieve a gradient to allow access for wheelchair users, and respects the existing pavement edge position relative to the building façade. The ramp width has been designed to allow for the full width of the doorway to be accessible on approach, and has been slightly splayed to present a welcoming approach to the reception area.

A curved top kerb will be provided on either side of the ramp styled to match the existing kerbs along the rear edge of the pavement, and surmounted by traditionally styled black painted ironwork railings to match the style of the existing adjacent railings. Stainless steel tubular handrails will provide a delicate visual contrast to the black painted railings and enable them to be seen more easily by the visually impaired.

The surface of the ramp will be paved to provide a robust surface in keeping with the surrounding streetscape.