



Historic England

Ms Anna Foreshew  
London Borough of Camden  
Town Hall, Judd Street  
London  
Greater London  
WC1H 9JE

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Our ref: L01133950

17 December 2019

Dear Ms Foreshew

**Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications Direction 2015**

**ST JOHNS CHURCH DOWNSHIRE HILL LONDON NW3 1NU  
Application No. 2019/5228/L**

Thank you for your letter of 11 November 2019 regarding the above application for listed building consent and subsequent email of 11 December regarding the change to the description of development.

**Historic England Advice**

The Church of St John is a Grade I listed Classical-style church built 1818-23, possibly to designs by CR Cockerell or by its builder, William Woods. The proposals relate to the gallery, which it appears has suffered from cracking and sagging in recent years leading to concerns regarding its structural stability. We do not wish to comment in detail, however we support the principal of the proposed structural repairs, which involve the installation of plywood sheath and additional timber support strengthening to historic structural elements. Of the two options presented for the ceiling finish below, we consider that this should be reinstated in traditional lath and plaster (not the lime-based plaster on woodwool slabs) in order to preserve the integrity of traditional craftsmanship within this highly significant building.

**Recommendation**

We suggest that this application should be determined in accordance with national and local policy guidance, and we have drafted the necessary letter of authorisation (attached) for your authority to determine the application as you see fit and referred the case to the National Planning Casework Unit (NPCU). You will be able to issue a formal decision once NPCU have returned the letter of authorisation to you, unless the Secretary of State directs the application to be referred to them.

It is not necessary for us to be consulted on this application again, unless there are material changes to the proposals. However, if you would like detailed advice from us, please contact us to explain your request.



4TH FLOOR, CANNON BRIDGE HOUSE, 25 DOWGATE HILL, LONDON EC4R 2YA

Telephone 020 7973 3700  
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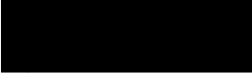


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Historic England

Yours sincerely



**Sarah Freeman**

Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas



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