

**Project**            **Central Saint Giles Court Mixed-Use Development, Residential Block, Rooftop at 1 Saint Giles High Street, London, WC2H 8AG, UK (Building)**

**Re**                    **Objection to Cornerstone, Telefonica UK Ltd and Vodafone Limited's proposed installation of 10 no. antennas, 2 no. transmission dishes, equipment cabinets and ancillary development thereto (Proposed Development) filed with Camden Council on 07 May 2020**

Paris, 08 June 2020,

**To Whom It May Concern:**

This letter is to express firm and formal Renzo Piano Building Workshop (RPBW)'s objection to the Proposed Development as above captioned. RPBW is the architect of the Building. The below detailed reasons lead RPBW to oppose to the Proposed Development.

**1. Proposed Development in Contrast with the Purpose of the Building**

From our perspective, and following strong common sense, if an installation on a residential building of a telecom antenna can be avoided it should be (even considering that the planning application supporting documents elucidate on the safety aspects, and that no scientific evidence are available to date that these signals are harmful). In the present case, there does not seem any particular good reason to put it on top of the affordable and keyworkers housing building as there are numerous large commercial buildings of similar height in the immediate vicinity. An existing equipment was housed on one of those buildings, which is demolished to be replaced by an upgraded G5 system. We do not see any particular good reason why this new system cannot be housed on the same location.

**2. Proposed Development Incompatible with the Urban Context**

The affordable and keyworkers housing building of Central Saint Giles has a small floorplate so the antennas would inevitably be very visible from any angle at street level (as illustrated in our CGI's). This would not be the case if the antenna were put on a large plate office building as the antenna can be set back from the roof edge in such a way that it would not be visible from most street view angles in the immediate surroundings.

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Both RPBW and the client have spent considerable effort to make the Central St Giles project as harmoniously as possible to its historic surrounding, in both detailing and massing avoiding any “harm”, to use a planning assessment term, in its setting. At the time, we have gone through a very serious and thorough planning process with Camden Council in order to achieve the best possible project for this location. To ignore this process and accept now 10 incongruous antennas, which have no architectural merit and are not coherent with the architecture of the complex is not acceptable, this would create “harm” in planning terms of its historic setting. The roof scape was considered by the planners as extremely important, now to accept the antenna structures which have no relationship at all with the architecture seems totally counterproductive and incoherent with Camden Planning policies.

### **3. Proposed Development in Violation of the Integrity of the Building**

RPBW is the author of the Building and owns the intellectual property rights on the Building. In addition to Camden Planning policies, RPBW designed the whole Building bearing a strong interest for the roof scape, clearly intended, designed, authorised by Camden Council and built as a Fifth Façade, i.e. not only following aesthetic considerations, but especially for proposing the area a roof consistent with the urban context and the purpose of the same, i.e. affordable and keyworkers housing.

Therefore, RPBW reserves its right to pursue legal action, which may include an action claiming compensation in light of the significant damage caused to its reputation in the market directly caused by the installation of antennas on top of the Building. RPBW reserves all its rights in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Joost Moolhuijzen  
*Partner & Director*

**Encl.** RPBW analysis of the proposed installation;  
Excerpt of the Planning Application brief filed on 2005 for Planning Permission.

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