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British Tinnitus
Association

Jonathan McClue – Principal Planning Officer
London Borough of Camden
5 Pancras Square
London
NIC 4AG
BY EMAIL: Jonathan.McClue@camden.gov.uk

29 March 2021

Dear Mr McClue,

Application Ref: 2020/5593/P

UCL Ear Institute: Proposed redevelopment of former Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital 330 Gray's Inn Road

We write to express our strongest objection in respect to the proposed redevelopment of the former Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear (RNTNE) Hospital at 330 Gray's Inn Road.

The British Tinnitus Association (BTA) is a funder and partner of UCL's Ear Institute. The UCL Ear Institute opened at its current location in 2005 as a result of a major Wellcome Trust grant. The Institute forms an integral part of UCL's Faculty of Brain Sciences and brings together some of the most influential academics and clinicians in the world with a passion to understand and to develop therapies for hearing loss and tinnitus. Working in fields as diverse as human genetics, biophysics, computational neuroscience, cell biology and human cognition it is one of the world's leading centres for auditory research and ranked 1st based on bibliometric analysis of highly cited publications in England.

The BTA have been supporting work at the Institute through its peer-reviewed, competitive grant funding schemes since the UCL Ear Institute's inception. The BTA supports a range of activity within the Institute with research focused on identifying a cure for tinnitus – fully aligned with our vision of a world where no one suffers from tinnitus. BTA-funding at UCL is critical since research directed towards developing therapies for tinnitus is very much under-funded in the UK. Research at the Ear Institute has made significant advances in our understanding of the mechanisms of tinnitus and how to treat it. We very much support the need to continue research at the Ear Institute.

The proposed redevelopment and associated construction of 330 Gray's Inn Road will result in significant noise, vibration, security and servicing impacts as well as Party Wall and Neighbourly issues. Without appropriate mitigation, these impacts will severely prejudice the Ear Institute's research operations and funding of future research programmes. The proposed development would therefore conflict with the strategic aims of the London Plan and Camden's Local Plan policies by undermining the strategic importance of London's cluster of world-leading medical research and academic institutions to which the Ear Institute forms an integral component.

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In light of the failure of the development proposals to appropriately mitigate for these very significant impacts, we ask that the proposals are amended to ensure that appropriate mitigation is provided. In the event that this is not provided, we respectfully request that the application is refused.

Yours sincerely



David Stockdale
Chief Executive

Cc:

Cllr Danny Beales – Cabinet Member for Investing in Communities, Culture and an Inclusive Economy (by email: Danny.Beales@camden.gov.uk)

Cllr Pat Callaghan – Cabinet Member for Healthy & Caring Camden (by email: Patricia.Callaghan@camden.gov.uk)

Daniel Pope – Acting Director of Economy, Regeneration and Investment Supporting Communities (by email: Daniel.Pope@camden.gov.uk)

Bethany Cullen – Head of Development Management (by email: Bethany.Cullen@camden.gov.uk)

Sadiq Khan – Mayor of London (email mayor@london.gov.uk)