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29th 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 Royal National Institute for Deaf people (RNID) is a major 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 hearing and bring about treatments for hearing loss; 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.

RNID have been supporting work through its peer-reviewed, competitive grant funding schemes since the UCL Ear Institute's inception. The RNID supports a wide range of activity within the Institute from project grant funding, junior fellowships for ECRs and PhD studentships. Many on these awards are critical pilot projects that generate data to support further larger awards. In the last 5 years RNID have made funding awards to a total of £1.2 million – funds raised from charitable donations. The impact of the RNID-funded research at the Ear Institute is significant given that there are 12 million people in the UK who suffer from hearing loss and 1 in 8 people who suffer from tinnitus. The primary aim of this UCL Ear Institute research is to find a cure for hearing loss and to drive the development of new technology – fully-aligned with the research goals of RNID.

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

Chairman: John Morgan Chief Executive Officer: Mark Atkinson

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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.

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



Dr Ralph Holme
Executive Director of Research

Cc:

Cllr Danny Beales (Cabinet Member for Investing in Communities, Culture and an Inclusive Economy)
Cllr Pat Callaghan (Cabinet Member for Healthy & Caring Camden)
Daniel Pope (Acting Director of Economy, Regeneration and Investment Supporting Communities)
Bethany Cullen (Head of Development Management)
Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London)

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