

Jonathan McClue – Principal Planning Officer
London Borough of Camden
5 Pancras Square
London
N1C 4AG
BY EMAIL: Jonathan.McClue@camden.gov.uk

26 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 National Institute for Health Research funds 20 Biomedical Research Centres (BRCs). These are collaborations between world-leading universities and NHS organisations that bring together academics and clinicians to translate lab-based scientific breakthroughs into potential new treatments, diagnostics and medical technologies. The three BRCs conducting research into hearing (Manchester, Nottingham and UCLH) formed a research collaboration partnership. We have worked together for four years and fully expect this to continue. The partnership has been a catalyst for initiatives that are transforming the care of the 1 in 6 adults in the UK with a hearing loss. For example:

1. We have developed a national infrastructure for hearing research by ensuring that routinely collect NHS clinical data are available for research purposes.
2. We are partners on national research studies that would otherwise be difficult to deliver as individual research groups.

At the Department of Health and Social Care round table discussion on hearing research, hosted by Lord Bethel, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health Innovation (December 2020), the BRC partnership was congratulated on forming the most successful UK collaboration on hearing research for more than 40-50 years.

The activity of the UCL NIHR BRC is critically dependent upon the Ear Institute, its staff and facilities. The Ear Institute opened at its current location in 2005 as a result of a major Wellcome Trust grant. The Institute brings together some of the most influential academics and clinicians in the world with a passion to understanding hearing and deafness and to develop and deliver transformative hearing treatments. 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 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

Hosted by Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust and The University of Manchester.

In partnership with:

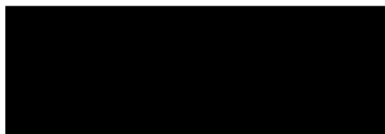
◆ The Christie NHS Foundation Trust ◆ Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust

Supported by Health Innovation Manchester

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



Kevin J Munro
Ewing Professor of Audiology
Manchester Centre for Audiology and Deafness

Kevin J Munro PhD | Ewing Professor of Audiology

www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/kevin.j.munro.html

Manchester Centre for Audiology and Deafness (ManCAD; www.research.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/ManCAD/)

Hearing Health Theme Lead and Deputy Director of NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre

www.manchesterbrc.nihr.ac.uk

Audiology Ambassador GM CRN

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 (by email mayor@london.gov.uk)