



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

NIHR | University College London Hospitals
Biomedical Research Centre

Professor Bryan Williams MD FRCP FAHA FESC
Director | NIHR UCL Hospitals Biomedical Research Centre
Chair of Medicine | University College London

Executive Assistant: Sharon Hay
Maple House | Suite 1A
149 Tottenham Court Road | London | W1T 7DN | UK
T: 020 3108 7907 | E: s.hay@ucl.ac.uk

April 6th 2021

Dear Mr McClue,

Re: 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.

To provide context to our concern, the National Institute for Health Research Biomedical Research Centre at UCLH is one of the Nation's Flagship Biomedical Research Centres (BRC) and a major funder and partner of UCL's Ear Institute. Together with the new Royal National ENT and Eastman Dental Hospitals, the Institute hosts the translational research programme of our NIHR UCLH BRC Hearing Theme. In so doing, 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 for patients in the NHS and beyond. It is one of the world's leading centres for hearing research and ranked 1st based on bibliometric analysis of highly cited publications in England. We cannot put this in jeopardy.

The proposed Groveworld 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. This would have a catastrophic impact on the functionality of the Ear institute. Without appropriate mitigation, these impacts will severely prejudice the Ear Institute's research operations and funding of future research programmes. This in turn would severely compromise one of the world's leading centres dedicated to finding new treatments for impaired hearing and deafness. 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. It would also compromise collaborative NHS-funded research efforts focussed on improving hearing, across the UK, including centres in Nottingham and Manchester.

The current development proposals fail to appropriately mitigate for the very significant and detrimental impacts they would have on this critical research work with the potential to benefit millions of people. It would also threaten the viability of this globally leading research institute. We therefore 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



Bryan Williams
NIHR University College London Hospitals BRC Director
Chair of Medicine | UCL

Professor Bryan Williams | Director | NIHR University College London Hospitals Biomedical Research Centre