**Design and Access Statement**

**October Gallery – 24 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1N 3AL**

**Stairlift on Courtyard Staircase**

October Gallery occupies this Grade 2 Listed, late-Victoria, red brick former school building near Queens Square in Bloomsbury. The property comprises a basement, a ground floor with an enclosed, outdoor courtyard, a first floor and a second floor.

General access to the building is via the main entrance on Old Gloucester Street. In addition there is a ground floor exit to Gage Street and a fire escape exit from the second floor landing of a courtyard staircase that leads to a fire escape stairwell on the neighbouring property, which is part of Great Ormond Street Hospital; this fire escape stairwell is shared by agreement with Great Ormond Street Hospital and leads to a second exit to Gage Street.

The internal courtyard features a metal, outdoor staircase which, in addition to serving as a fire exit, provides access between the ground floor, first and second floor of the property. As the property does not have a lift, access to the upper floors for people with mobility issues is difficult.

We would like to install a chair lift on the courtyard staircase to improve ‘accessible’ access to the upper floors. The chair lift would include a metal guide rail installed onto the stairs and two chairs (for separate legs of the staircase) which can be folded up when not in use and parked in areas of the stairwell where they will not block access. We are currently awaiting a site visit for a fire risk assessment to confirm that the available space on the staircase is suitable and that the chairlift installation would not pose any safety risks.

The installation would be fully reversible and would not make any structural changes to the building.