

OBJECTION to 2022/0218/P 93 SOUTH HILL PARK

From: THE HEATH & HAMPSTEAD SOCIETY

Insulation – inside or outside?

This application to insulate externally will probably be the first of many and therefore very crucial.

It is proposed to encase a Victorian four-storey semi-detached house with thick insulation protected by white panels. New triple-glazed windows are proposed, fixed in the same plane as the insulation, so the appearance would be very different from the existing brick walls with recessed windows and fine segmental arches. The garden side of the semi-detached house can be seen from the Heath - one half Victorian brick and the other half covered in white -- visually very different. This house is part of a continuous line of fine well-preserved Victorian brick buildings and as they can be seen from the Heath it is crucial that the rear elevation should not be covered.

The insulation required on the front elevation has been added to the interior surface of the external wall in order not to disrupt the regular continuity of the intricate front brick and painted stone elevations of the street.

Insulating a solid brick wall on the inside or outside surfaces is equally viable in the rapidly changing UK climate. It therefore seems reasonable to require insulation on the inside surface when a valued façade or series of facades would otherwise be lost or disrupted.

With the disaster of Grenfell Tower in mind, the dangers of fire spread will need to be considered when the externally fixed insulation is submitted for Building Regulation approval.

Please refuse this otherwise very acceptable application unless the rear elevation is insulated on the inside, as has been done for the front.