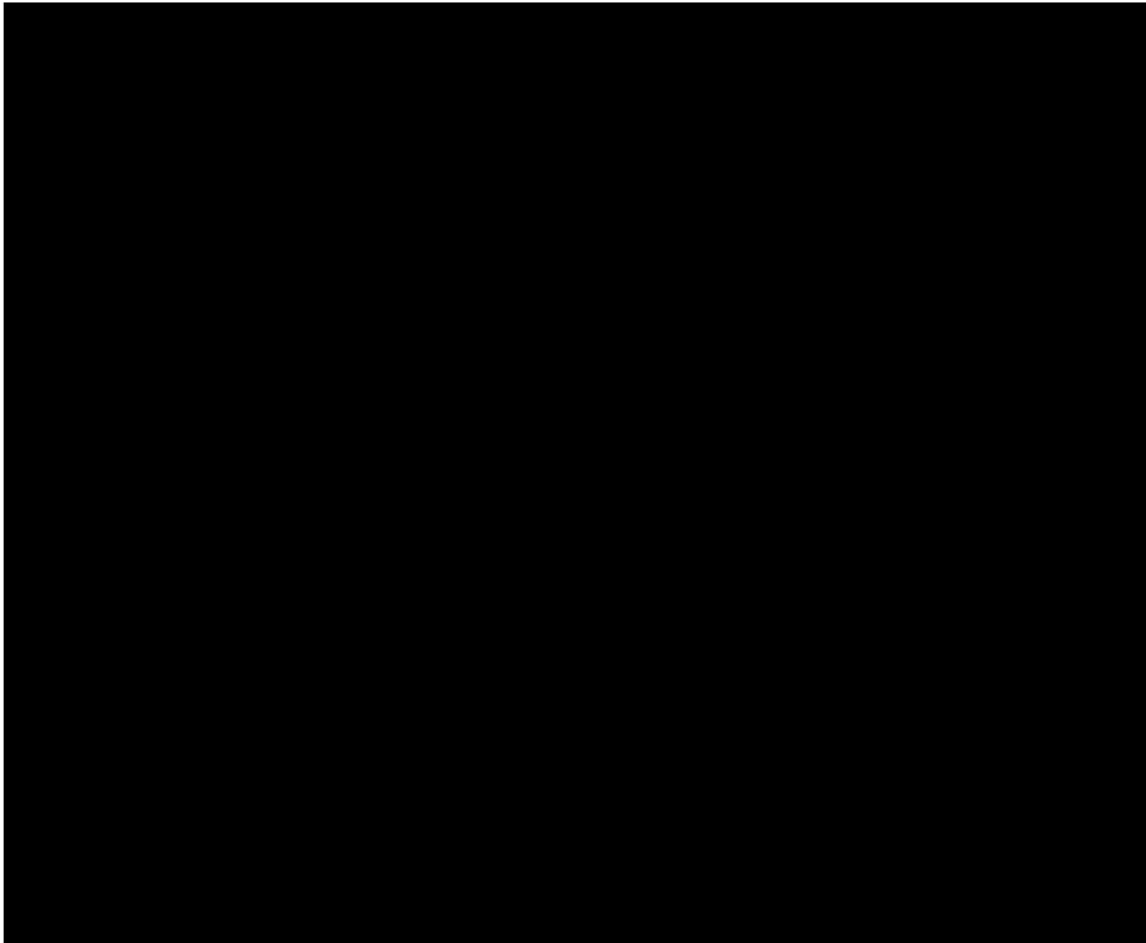


**Rafi Miah**

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Dear Jennifer Walsh

**Planning reference 2022/1320/L and 2022/1041/P**

The British Library (**Land to the North of the British Library**) 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB

I wish to object to the proposal to demolish part of a Grade 1 listed building, one of the most distinguished in the 20th century, and to erect a new structure that is so out of scale with its context as to severely damage the setting of what would remain of the British Library. It would be an extraordinary act of short-term vandalism that would provoke international opprobrium. I have two points to make in addition to the general expression of astonishment that this should be considered seriously.

First: Demolishing a recently constructed building, of whatever quality, with its inherent embodied carbon is wrong in principle, unless it can be demonstrated that the existing structure cannot be maintained within a new development to meet changed needs. I imagine you will require a detailed justification along those lines before the proposal is considered in committee.

Secondly: I cannot believe that, as the Planning Officer, you could make a positive recommendation to your committee unless you simultaneously sought to de-list the Grade 1 listed building, since a portion of it would be

removed and its setting irrevocably changed for the worse. Should you do so without simultaneously de-listing the British Library, the precedent it would set makes the Grade 1 listing meaningless.

Your sincerely

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Nicholas Ray

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