

**12A MANLEY STREET
LONDON NW1 8LT**

30 June 2022

For the attention of Jennifer Walsh
London Borough of Camden

Dear Jennifer,

2022/1041/P + 2022/1320/L The British Library (Land to the North of the British Library) 96 Euston Road London NW1 2DB

I object strongly to this application. I write as a local Camden resident and long-time user of the British Library. I also support the Library as a paying member of its membership organization.

The British Library is a Grade I Listed Building – the number of twentieth-century Listed Buildings at Grade I is extremely few. Its status is nationally exceptional and its significance should not be understated.

One of its special characteristics is the low massing of the bulk of the Library. This responds with great sophistication to its neighbours – to the east, St Pancras Station and the Midland Grand Hotel, also Listed Grade I, and to the west, Levita House, Listed Grade II. The present application proposes a building of 12 storeys above ground which would overwhelm the Listed Library building and seriously harm its special architectural massing. It would also – running from east to west of the site – harm the setting of the Listed Hotel and Levita House, both of which are characterized by important skylines.

The proposals are also harmful to the Library building in detail. The north elevation of the building was designed with views out from spaces which are internal but publicly accessible. A series of terraces also provides views which locate the viewer within the wider townscape. This open character would be destroyed by the proposed building which would cramp and constrict these important elements of the original building.

This cumulative damage to the Library itself and to an exceptional group of Listed Buildings constitutes unacceptable harm to designated heritage assets which contribute significantly to the recognized character of Camden and indeed of London.



Richard Simpson FSA