



Subject:

Great Ormond Street Hospital Redevelopment



To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to comment on the Great Ormond Street Hospital's current redevelopment plans. These represent a massive increase in scale for the buildings on the Hospital's main site, and the acceleration of what is effectively a continuous programme of redevelopment and expansion. In this small neighbourhood, this programme has frequently resulted in significant increases in pollution and noise, major disruption to surrounding traffic and pedestrian routes, and permanent degradation of valuable historic fabric and character.

The new buildings proposed would exceed the height of the Victorian façade and approach the height of the tallest buildings in the area (such as Chancellor's Court on Tybalds Estate). They would overshadow the historic houses opposite and, even at a distance of a couple of streets, block some of the light in my own home. The massive, generic frontage proposed for Great Ormond Street would be at least as visually disruptive to the surrounding conservation area as the one it would replace.

The Hospital's continued and increasing rate of expansion raises questions about the limits to which this can be sustained within this conservation area. With each new development proposal, the same irrational features are repeated, such as retaining the main entrance on already-cramped Great Ormond Street. While it refuses to move to a less congested and more accessible site, the Hospital could at least mitigate some of the worst effects of this mismatch by, for example, relocating the main entrance to Guilford Street. It is worrying that the Hospital authorities never feel compelled to address these and many other significant issues.

Yours faithfully,

Matthew Cort

