



Historic England

Ms Elaine Quigley
3777

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London Borough of Camden

Development Management
P01528373

Our ref:

Town Hall

Judd Street

London

WC1H 9JE
2022

25 August

Dear Ms Quigley

**T&CP (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015
& Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990**

**THE BRITISH MUSEUM GREAT RUSSELL STREET LONDON WC1B 3DG
Application No. 2022/3159/P**

Thank you for your letter of 29 July 2022 regarding the above application for planning permission.

The proposal is for the retention of the existing security search buildings in the grounds of the British Museum for a further temporary period.

When these buildings were granted temporary permission in 2020 (relevant references 2016/2523/P and 2016/4219/P) Historic England raised concerns about the proposals and considered them to cause a high degree of harm to the setting of the Grade I listed Museum and the surrounding Bloomsbury Conservation Area.

We did however, acknowledge that the Museum has a proven need to provide security



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screening to museum visitors and accepted that such screening could be perceived as a public benefit. In coming to a decision on the previous applications, your authority weighed this harm against the public benefits arising from the proposals and granted planning permission for a maximum of 2 years.

We understood that 2 years would allow adequate time for the Museum to establish its security requirements and to formulate a permanent solution. However, this has not been possible, and we acknowledge that the museum requires more time to formulate a permanent solution. We therefore recommend that if your authority is minded to grant planning permission, that this be for a further time-limited period.

In respect to a permanent solution, we would encourage the Museum to work with ourselves and your authority to bring forward proposals as soon as possible.

We also suggest that you seek the views of your specialist conservation advisors, as relevant.

It is not necessary for us to be consulted on this application again, unless there are material changes to the proposals. If you would like detailed advice from us, please contact us to explain your request.

Yours sincerely

Claire Brady

Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas

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