

**From:** Gillian Darley

**Sent:** 07 December 2022 12:00

**To:** Planning

**Subject:** GOSH CCC (2022/2255/P0)

I am writing, firstly, to say how thoroughly I support the excellent analysis and comments made by Alec Forshaw in response to the amended (October) proposals. It would be pointless to restate the main headings beyond the fact that GOSH has behaved in a cavalier fashion towards the local community which it is, essentially, proposing to assault.

As nearby residents for almost forty years, we have seen our share of health service buildings going and coming. The latest of these, the Zayed Building on Guilford Street, was inserted with maximum care and architectural discretion. It appears, however, to be very lightly used. Which begs the question of how thoroughly the new CCC building has been conceived within the overall medical needs of GOSH and neighbouring hospitals. I also note that GOSH is citing the 2015 Masterplan. Eight years old.

However, I'll confine myself to the elevations onto Great Ormond Street. I am a former Chair and Trustee of SPAB which, when I first became involved (as a volunteer) had its head office on the street. The lumpen over-scale of the building proposed by BDP (a distinguished practice, so I'm dismayed), the blocking of sight lines, the bland insensitivity of the detail - neither 'fish nor fowl' - and above all the massing of the whole, without the thoughtful setbacks or care that the previous undistinguished building took in this regard, is really concerning. Of course, to design a medical facility in an early 18<sup>th</sup> century London residential street is something that very few architects could accomplish. And I would argue that here the essentials suggest that they have failed and failed badly. I plead with Camden to consider the broad-brush deficiencies of this scheme, too many floors, too much unrelieved frontage, as viewed in relation to the fabric of our wonderful, happily various,

neighbourhood. Is this the right place for it, and is this the right building, if it must be here?

As a veteran observer/resident of WC1, both personally and professionally, I am disappointed and, in fact, shocked by the lack of care that GOSH, in the past notorious for their arrogance, has given to their development in our midst. Finding funds is not their problem, finding friends after this may be harder.

Gillian Darley OBE

14 Doughty Street.