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Planning Department
Contact Camden
5 Pancras Square
London N1C 4AG

19 December 2022
Our ref: PN/CG

Dear Camden Council's Planning Department

British Library extension: planning application number reference: 2022/1041/P

I am writing on behalf of the Francis Crick Biomedical Research Institute (and also as a life scientist researcher who has worked for many years in Camden), in strong support of the proposed British Library extension (planning application number 2022/1041/P).

The importance of data and information and their analysis is on the rise, and will continue to do so in the future. As our societies become increasingly complex and influenced by advances in science and technology, data and information will become more and more essential. This is particularly the case for the life sciences and its associated applications in biomedicine and health. The British Library, one of the great UK public institutions, is central to this endeavour and the proposed extension to the Library buildings will help enhance its central mission supporting data and information, allow commercial and research developments in related areas, strengthen the Library's social facilities, and improve the local environment.

Specifically, the extension will allow the Alan Turing Institute (specialising in data, information and algorithms) to be properly accommodated, will strengthen research links with the Francis Crick Institute, and will allow commercial developments with potential to drive the local economy. It makes a significant addition to the Knowledge Quarter and together with nearby institutions such as Google Deep Mind, and the Crick, will make this corner of Camden a world leader in the informational and life sciences. The improvement of the local environment and public spaces will also help the area and is of particular importance to the workers in the Crick.

The extension is needed for Crick research, and helps create an informational and life sciences sector that is important for Camden, London and the Nation. This is why I am strongly supportive of this British Library extension going ahead. Should you wish to discuss this project further with me please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Sir Paul Nurse OM CH FRS
Director

