

Ewan Campbell Camden Planning Solutions Team

13 May 2024

Re: Hampstead Police Station, 2024/1078/P

Dear Mr Campbell,

The Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum supports the application with several caveats. Primarily, the Forum is concerned about the loss of original features in the Magistrate's Court.

According to the Heritage Report:

"The room retains the original jury stand, clerk seating areas and public gallery, while the dock is raised on a dais and bounded by cast iron railings, positioned in front of the raised and suspended floored magistrate bench. The courtroom is in need of repair and refurbishment following vandalism, though is still considered to be one of the most important internal spaces within the building, and contributes highly to the building's overall significance, enabling an understanding of the various historic functions."

The significance of the courtroom is that it is intact: the function of the room is still legible through the existing furniture and features. Removing too many of these would render the function no longer discernible, causing irreparable damage to the heritage asset, contrary to Policy DH2 of the Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan.

We note that the applicant submitted a design addendum to address continuing concerns about overlooking. It seems to us that some neighbours may still have cause for concern, and we ask that Camden officers consider whether the proposed mitigation measures will be sufficient.

On a separate matter, in the third set of pre-application comments, Camden advises that "opportunities to maximise renewables such as by introducing solar PV should be investigated." The Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum would support the installation of solar PV.

Sincerely,

Alex Nicoll Chair, Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum