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23 November 2015

Dear Sirs

**The Camden (Prescribed Routes, Waiting and Loading Restrictions and Parking Places)  
(No.1) Experimental Traffic Order 2015**

We act for Imperial London Hotels Limited which operates from a number of sites near Tavistock Square. Our client (together with other local residents and businesses) was not aware of the proposals in the above Order until it was implemented last week with the introduction of (amongst other matters) a new one way system for motorised vehicles and a new cycle lane that runs around the perimeter of the existing taxi rank outside the Tavistock Hotel. This has had a significant and detrimental impact on the operation of many businesses including the Tavistock Hotel and its other sites.

We note that the Council's advertisement in The Gazette states that "*A copy of the experimental orders and the Council's Statement of Reasons for the experimental orders may be inspected/obtained at the Contact Camden reception desk, Camden Town offices, 5 Pancras Square, N1C 4AG.*" However our clients transport consultant was unable to locate a copy of the Order or the accompanying papers on his visit to the reception desk last week when your receptionist advised him that no such papers were available. We also note that the advert is dated 5 November 2015 and confirms that the Order will come into force on 9 November. Regulation 22(2) of the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 confirms that "*No provision of an experimental order shall come into force before the expiration of the period of seven days beginning with the day on which a notice of making in relation to the order is published.*" For this reason alone the Order is unlawful, the works initiated pursuant to it should be reinstated immediately and all further work should cease.

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The other purpose of this letter is to put you on immediate notice that our clients are giving active consideration to proceedings challenging the validity of the Order pursuant to section 35 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. On this basis it would not be advisable to incur any expense or take any other steps (other than the remedial works outlined above) to progress the works referred to in the Order until the matter has been resolved.

We also require the information below which you should treat as a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "2000 Act"). You will note that our clients were not consulted on the works comprised in the Order and only became aware of them last week. In order to alleviate any further prejudice to our clients (and to meet the 6 week deadline to bring any proceedings) it would assist if the information below can be provided in the next 7 days, notwithstanding the formal request under the 2000 Act:-

1. A copy of the Order and the Council's Statement of Reasons
2. Copies of all consultation material including
  - (a) Any leaflets delivered to local businesses and residents confirming the method and date of delivery
  - (b) A list of all external bodies consulted including any operators of buses, emergency services. Please include copies of consultation material sent, and the date and method of delivery as well as any responses received.
3. Copies of all material relating to the Order including any reports to Committee/Cabinet or any other officers or members at the Council together with any responses received, all plans/drawings and internal memorandums and e-mails and any other associated papers.
4. A copy of any survey material obtained before the Order came into force including details of what dates and at what times the surveys took place.
5. Copies of all third party (including local residents and businesses) representations received in respect of the flow of traffic and/or highway safety relating to the highway and land that is the subject of the Order. This should include records kept in respect of residents concerns referred to at paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7 of the report of the Director of Culture and Environment dated 1 July 2015 (the "Report") addressed to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration,

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Transport and Planning, namely:- *"2.6...Residents have also raised concern that crossing the cycle track and then two traffic lanes can be difficult and confusing...2.7 A number of local groups, residents and institutions have asked the Council to look at ways of reducing the impact of through traffic in the area."*

6. Details of all other options considered by the Council other than those set out in paragraph 3 of the Report.
7. Details of the measures taken and on what date(s) to target *"...publicity to advise drivers and other road users of the changes [as a result of the Order] in advance of the changes being introduced"* referred to in paragraph 5.4 of the Report.

We are copying this letter to the Council's Director of Culture and Environment and look forward to your urgent response.

Yours faithfully

*Farrer & Co*

cc Ed Watson, Director of Culture and Environment