

Statement of Case in support of The Camden (Torrington Place to Tavistock Place) (Prescribed Routes, Waiting and Loading Restrictions and Parking Places) Traffic Order [2017]

Planning Inspectorate Reference: DPI/X5210/17/8

1. University College London (UCL) wishes to publicly state support for the Camden (Torrington Place to Tavistock Place) (Prescribed Routes, Waiting and Loading Restrictions and Parking Places) Traffic Order [2017].

UCL Community and Estate

2. UCL is one of the largest institutions in the London Borough of Camden, with a community of over fifty thousand staff and students. Many of our students live within Bloomsbury in halls of residence.
3. The UCL estate encompasses a large number of buildings all across London, however the main campus is concentrated in Bloomsbury. The route of the proposed traffic order passes ten UCL buildings in addition to one of the main pedestrian entrances to the central campus.
4. UCL is also a paying stakeholder (through the Gordon Square Committee) in the management and upkeep of Gordon and Woburn squares. The route of the proposed traffic order also passes these gardens, which provide the main green space for UCL staff and students and an important habitat for a range of animals.

Reasons for support

5. UCL has an institutional commitment to enable sustainable travel choices. This includes increasing the numbers of our staff and students who walk or cycle to and around our campus. This helps reduce carbon emissions from transport and also improves health and wellbeing by promoting physical activity. The proposed traffic order will assist with this increase by providing a safer route for cyclists to use, with lower traffic volumes and lower likelihood of collisions with vehicles or other cyclists. It also creates a more pleasant environment for pedestrians, with greater separation from traffic.
6. UCL is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of our staff and students. London faces a severe public health challenge from poor air quality, particularly from high levels of nitrous oxides and particulate matter. A reduction in the volume of traffic on London's roads is vital to tackle this problem. The proposed traffic order will help achieve this reduction by encouraging more walking and cycling. The improved air quality will be particularly beneficial in UCL's green spaces, including Gordon and Woburn squares.
7. UCL is proud of its status as a London university and notes that the proposed traffic order contributes towards local and city government goals on increased use of sustainable travel and action to reduce air pollution. UCL wants to be an active partner in achieving these goals and therefore supports the proposed traffic order.

Proof of Evidence

8. UCL's argument is supported by evidence in the following documents:
 - UCL Green Travel Plan
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/greenucl/resources/policy/ucl-travel-plan>
 - Traffic count and air quality survey
https://consultations.wearecamden.org/corporate-services/torrington-place-tavistock-place-route-proposed-im/supporting_documents/Detailed%20information.pdf
 - London Mayor Transport Strategy
https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/policy/mayors-transport-strategy/user_uploads/mayor-s-draft-transport-strategy-full-document.pdf
 - London Mayor Environment Strategy
https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/les_full_version.pdf