



FAO: Planning Department,  
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

Ref: 6/2024/2170/FULL  
Date: 16/12/2024

## HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION ADVICE

### RE: Telephone Exchange Wigmores North Welwyn Garden City AL8 6PH

Built heritage advice pertaining to installation of an aluminium louvre following removal of 2x windowpanes on the first-floor east elevation.

The property is located in the Welwyn Garden City Conservation Area.

The proposed installation of the louvre would disrupt the very regular and consistent fenestration pattern of the property and introduce an atypical feature to the first floor opening. The uniformity of the fenestration pattern and appearance is a key architectural feature of the Neo-Georgian buildings within the Conservation Area. Although the windows are located in a later extension, it still follows the uniform frontages seen within the original Welwyn Garden City buildings, preserving the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. However, the proposal would erode this key design principle.

The existing louvers are small and in discrete locations. Furthermore, one of the existing louvers to the upper floor window is set behind a frame that mimics the pattern of the window glazing bars which lessens its visual impact upon the streetscene. The proposed louvers would occupy a much larger opening, in a more visually prominent location.

The proposals would fail to preserve the special interest of the listed building, and Section 16(2) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 should be considered. With regarding to the National Planning Policy Framework, the level of harm is considered less than substantial making paragraph 215 of the NPPF relevant.

Yours sincerely

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Place Services

*Note: This letter is advisory and should only be considered as the opinion formed by specialist staff in relation to this particular matter*

