

Sent by email: correspondence@levellingup.gov.uk

16 January 2023

Mr Jeremy Pocklington
Permanent Secretary
Department of Levelling Up, Communities and Housing
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Dear Mr Pocklington

Re: UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre (HMLC)

In your Accounting Officer Assessment of public spending on the above dated 30 August 2022, you undertook to prepare a revised assessment, following the conclusion of the legal process affecting Planning Permission to construct the HMLC. As you are aware that legal process concluded in July 2022, with the Planning Permission quashed and the Appeal rejected. When will your new assessment be produced and where will you publish this for transparency?

You will also be aware of the NAO Investigation report on HMLC dated June 28 2022 raised a number of concerns about the project management and governance, budgeting and cost forecasts for this project, among other aspects of the Department's management of this project. These issues were not addressed in your Assessment, which refers to events up to February 2022.

Given recent statements by Government, including a letter in November 2022 from the Prime Minister to the Conservative Friends of Israel, we believe the project is still intended to progress. How have the concerns raised by the NAO report been addressed? And when will revised construction cost estimates be produced and published?

Is an alternative location, or design now being sought that will reduce the costs to the public purse and avoid or diminish the damage to Victoria Tower Gardens? Local residents have suggested alternative ideas that could deliver the aims of the Holocaust Memorial Commission without impacting on the park amenity as a space for outdoor enjoyment and wellbeing. Will the Department consider these new suggestions now or is the intent to pursue the original Adjaye design?

Yours sincerely



Helen Monger
Director