

5 May 2023

Dear Sirs

The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities must call in the planning application for Liverpool Street Station and its terminus hotel

To plonk fifteen stories of insensitively designed tower directly on top of the Grade II* former Great Eastern Hotel, thus partially demolishing the listed station and overwhelming the existing Victorian train sheds, is grossly opportunistic and wrong. The claim that a cantilevered building directly on top of a heritage asset somehow “preserves” that asset is nonsense and sets a dangerous precedent.

The station was saved from total demolition by Sir John Betjeman and others in 1975, and subsequently skilfully extended and upgraded by British Rail’s architects in the 1980s-90s. It is a magnificent surviving part of the history of London and Britain. The station as it stands today is a considered compromise between Victorian heritage and the needs of the railway.

It could easily be adapted to improve disability access and provide more escalators, independently of a commercial venture which would swamp and destroy the charm of a national historic monument to the railway age.

We the undersigned urge the minister, Michael Gove, to call in this planning application and reject it and the terrible precedent it would set for the protection of heritage.

Yours faithfully,

Griff Rhys Jones OBE, FRSA, President The Victorian Society, President of Civic Voice, President of LISSCA (Campaign to Save Liverpool Street Station)

See List of Signatories on following two pages.

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