

BLOOMSBURY RESIDENTS' ACTION GROUP

PROOF OF EVIDENCE 9

Problems caused for people with impaired mobility

STATEMENT

By PETER STORFER

Disabled resident in Swinton Street

- a) I am a 58 year old disabled man with multiple and complex medical conditions residing on Swinton Street, in the Kings Cross one-way system. I was diagnosed with a rare ethmoid sinus cancer in December 2007 and received chemotherapy and radiotherapy at UCLH in 2008. Since then I have been under regular surveillance by an oncology team at UCLH, owing to damage to III, V, & VI cranial nerves from radiotherapy. On average I have 1 appointment at UCLH per week, although there are weeks during which I have 2 or 3 appointments. As a disabled person, I am granted parking dispensation at UCLH and park in their car park for my various appointments. This includes parking in the Mortimer Market Centre for my appointments at the Macmillan Cancer Centre.
- b) Since the unannounced experimental traffic order transforming Tavistock Place from a two-way road into an Eastbound only route, more than 75% of my trips to the UCLH medical buildings around Grafton Way and Gower Street have been delayed by more than 25 minutes from the usual 20 minutes on average it took to travel to the hospital before the change. Below I present a short condensation of a personal diary I have kept of the trips I have made to UCH and Macmillan Cancer Centre.
- i) **Monday February 6, 2017** — Orthopaedics clinic 9:10 am. I left Swinton Street at 8:30 am. Euston Road was solidly backed up half way down Swinton Street. It took 20 minutes to pass St. Pancras. There was a further delay of 10 minutes passing through a substantial backlog of traffic attempting to filter into the Westbound lane of Euston Road turning into Gower Street Southbound. I arrived at UCH just after 9:15 am and at the clinic at 9:22 am.
- ii) **Monday February 13, 2017** — Anti-coagulation clinic 11:10 am. Euston Road was packed solidly again; so I tried a different route travelling up Acton Street at 10:13 am. I went Southbound on Grays Inn Road to Guilford Street. Bad Idea! Guilford Street was backed up east of Lamb's Conduit Street. The normal release Northbound on Herbrand Street was closed by constructors working on the Russell Hotel. I turned north of Woburn Place after about a half hour of nearly static traffic and traffic was backed up past the intersection with Russell Square. I turned off Woburn Place onto Russell Square; turned onto Bedford Way. By the time I reached Endsleigh Gardens, it was after 11 am. I tried to access Gower Street by Gower Place, which was also substantially backed up, because traffic on Gower Street was backed up. I arrived at UCH at 11:25 am, a trip of 1:15 hours for less than 2 miles.

- iii) **Monday February 20, 2017** — MRI Macmillan Centre 9:45 am. OK. I tried to beat the traffic this morning by leaving at 8 am. The Euston Road wasn't too bad by its standards, and I reached the Gower Street filter in a reasonable 20 or so minutes. Gower Street was a mess. There was some sort of work being done in the far West lane of Gower Street, and between the filter and the traffic lights it was a solid 20 minutes before I reached the intersection with Torrington Place. I reached Mortimer Market Centre, where I parked at about 9 am. Trip time 1 hour.
- iv) **Monday March 13, 2017**. Two appointments this morning: 9:45 am PET scan at Macmillan & 11:10 am at Anti-Coagulation clinic UCH. Euston Road was its usual Monday morning mess. Travelling by Euston Road to Gower Street to Torrington Place to Tottenham Court Road to Mortimer Market Centre took about 45 minutes.
- v) **Wednesday March 15, 2017**. Appointment at Macmillan at 12:30 pm. The trip was unremarkable, taking 48 minutes to get to Mortimer Market Centre.
- vi) **Wednesday April 26, 2017**, 2 appointments at UCH – 9:10 am Orthopaedics and 11:10 am at Anti-coagulation. Traffic was filthy. I left Swinton Street at 8 am, and I didn't arrive at UCH until nearly 9:30 am. Traffic was bad all over. There was no part of the trip which was easy, except the last 50 metres on Tottenham Court Rd.
- vii) **Wednesday May 10, 2017** — Appointment at Macmillan Centre 11:30 am. Things have become ridiculous at the Euston Road filter lane into Gower Street. There are now construction hoardings around UCH facing Gower Street and closing off one lane. Traffic is being squeezed from 3 directions into 2 lanes, which become 1 plus a bus lane. What was the central through lane of Gower Street is now the turning lane for Grafton Way and is backing up down Euston Road past Gordon Street and the Wellcome Trust, as traffic attempts to merge into the 20 metres or so on Euston Road left for non-bus lane traffic to get into the filter. It took something like 25 minutes to traverse the distance of the Euston Road between Upper Woburn Place and Gower Street. Total travel time – just under an hour.
- viii) **Wednesday June 14, 2017** — Appointment at UCH Nuclear Medicine at 10:45 am. The day I decide to leave more than an hour ahead of my appointment is the day traffic appears to be relatively light. It only took about 25 minutes to get to UCH, leaving me loads of time to find disabled parking.
- ix) **Wednesday July 26, 2017** — UCH Anti-coagulation clinic at 11:10 am. I was incredibly late (about a half hour) to my appointment today. Despite leaving 45 minutes to get to UCH, the traffic between Upper Woburn Place and Grafton Way was almost static. It took about 1:15 hours to get to the hospital.
- c) This is an honest representation for the diary notes I have made from over 35 visits to University College Hospital and the Macmillan Centre. I know the area very well, and I have attempted every rat-run I can to improve travel times to the hospital. There are none to be had. I earnestly hope that the independent adjudicator will see the common sense in restoring the East-West travel for cars along Tavistock Place & Torrington Place to the Intersection with Gower Street.