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Jessica Cole  
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30 September 2015

Dear Jess,

**PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990  
BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST –  
HYDE PARK BARRACKS**

With reference to Historic England's advice reports dated 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015 and 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015, which recommended that the above building be listed at Grade II, I am now in a position to inform you of the Secretary of State's decision.

Having considered the evidence for and against designating Hyde Parks Barracks, and having had regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the conservation area in which it sits, the Secretary of State has decided that Hyde Park Barracks does not possess the special historic or architectural interest to merit listing under the terms of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

The Secretary of State has had regard to the statutory criteria and Principles of Selection for Listed Buildings (March 2010), and in particular to the principle that particularly careful selection is required for buildings after 1945, in deciding not to list Hyde Park Barracks (or any part of it) for the following reasons:

- **Architectural Interest:** The decision to create separate buildings above a podium on such a narrow urban site has resulted in a confusing, inhospitable layout that never achieved the overall architectural stature hoped for when the building was commissioned.



- **Architectural Interest:** The design of the Peninsular Tower (Block F), the defining feature of the barracks, is mundane, as is the ceremonial parade ground. Though novel, the multi-storey stable block (Block A) is considered inappropriate for horses.
- **Historic Interest:** Though the building is a major work by Sir Basil Spence, one of Britain's most renowned C20 architects, the quality of the design of Hyde Park Barracks is far from that achieved by him elsewhere and has insufficient interest to justify the statutory protection afforded by listing.
- **Group Value:** The modernist functional ideology of the design resulted in a series of buildings that contrast with, rather than complement, their surroundings resulting in a harmful impact on character and appearance of the Royal Parks Conservation Area.

In reaching this conclusion the Secretary of State has noted the advice of Historic England recommending listing, plus the evidence from Donald Insall Associates (submitted by the Ministry of Defence) which concluded that the building does not demonstrate the special architectural or historic interest required for listing.

Having decided not to list Hyde Parks Barracks, the Secretary of State is minded to issue a certificate of immunity from listing (COI) for the building, subject to the receipt of any requests for a review of this decision during the 28 days following the issue of the decision to the parties. I should therefore be grateful if Historic England could commence the process of notifying the relevant parties.

Yours sincerely,



**John Tallantyre**

Head of Archaeology and Planning (Heritage) Policy

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