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Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 5:44 AM

To: David Wordsworth <David.Wordsworth@kirklees.gov.uk>; Callum Harrison <Callum.Harrison@kirklees.gov.uk>

Cc: Sebastian Pickles <Sebastian.Pickles@kirklees.gov.uk>; Helen Bower <Helen.Bower@kirklees.gov.uk>; Nigel Hunston <Nigel.Hunston@kirklees.gov.uk>

Subject: The George Hotel- amended plans

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Dear David/ Callum,

Amended plans have been submitted that show retention of the floor structure and ceiling above the first-floor conference room (Commercial Room) and retention of the section of the ground floor that is above the barrel arches in the basement. We have not been officially re-consulted but offer the following comments to assist the Planning Committee in considering the application.

It continues to be our position that this is the best conservation solution for this space, given its significance. The Commercial Room is one of the principal rooms that contributes a great deal to the significance of The George. It is a Grade II* listed building which means every effort should be

made to retain any elements that contribute to its significance. We have concerns about the impact of both the loss of fabric and the changes to the architectural composition/ proportions of the room through lowering the ceiling.

As with all decisions within building conservation, it comes down to weighing the requirements of the hotel use against the particular aspects of heritage significance that are affected. You will note that we have confined our concerns about the proposed floor replacement to the area where we consider the significance to be greatest. In this location we consider all options for avoiding the harm; including a small step within the two bedrooms above, or a different solution for fire and acoustic separation, need to be exhausted before the intervention is justified.

It therefore remains our position that a bespoke solution is required for the ceiling above the Commercial Room and the area of the ground floor above the barrel arches in the basement. We welcome the amended plans which indicate this sensitive solution and address the concerns outlined in our letter of 9 May 2023.

Kind regards
Emma

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