

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea,
attn Joseph Whitworth,
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please reply to:

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roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk

2021-03-26

Dear Sir,

Planning application PP/20/03216 – South Kensington Underground station, etc

I write further to my previous letter of 18 February 2021 on behalf of Railfuture in support of the above planning application.

We note that the consultation period has been extended until 26 March, and have taken further note that the description of the application amended on 11 January 2021 includes this extract: “*alterations to South Kensington Station to provide for Step-free access to the District and Circle Lines*”. As that phrase – “*to provide for*” – is not the same as ‘to provide’ step-free access to the District and Circle lines, we should clarify that our support is qualified to the extent that delivery of such an important element appears uncertain and encumbered by dependencies potentially outwith the control of the Council as local planning authority.

You will appreciate that our particular interest in this proposed development is because it represents a potential means to the necessary end of securing step-free access to the two sub-surface Underground lines. We suggest therefore that the Council consider use of an appropriate Grampian planning condition in any permission to be granted in order to ensure that the developer is sufficiently incentivised to fully complete that aspect of the proposal before being able to derive any significant commercial benefit from the development, for example by enabling only a low initial level of permitted occupation.

I trust that this clarification of our support, which is conditional on the complete package of accessibility improvements as described in our previous letter being delivered in full, is also helpful in offering a constructive way forward.

Yours faithfully,

Roger Blake BA, MRTPI (Rtd), MTPS
Railfuture
Vice-Chairman, London & South East regional branch
Director for Infrastructure & Networks, national Board

www.railfuture.org.uk www.railfuturescotland.org.uk www.railfuturewales.org.uk
www.railwatch.org.uk