



Quintin Hogg Trust
Quintin Hogg Memorial Fund
Since 1903

6 May 2020

Sent by e-mail

Quintin Hogg Trustee Company
66 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London, WC2A 3LH

Proposed changes to Quintin Hogg Trust (registered charity number 1010404) and Quintin Hogg Memorial Fund (registered charity number 288144)

I am writing to you in connection with proposed changes to Quintin Hogg Trust and Quintin Hogg Memorial Fund (the **Charities**). This letter is part of a formal consultation process which the trustees of the Charities are carrying out with relevant stakeholders, including beneficiaries and users of the Charities' facilities.

Background

As you may be aware, the Charities have been administered together by the same individual trustees for many years. Both were established for the benefit of the University of Westminster (**UoW**), which was founded by the Victorian philanthropist Quintin Hogg, and its students. QHT was created to hold certain buildings which had originally been acquired for the benefit of UoW, although it also has general educational purposes. QHMF was established to hold for the benefit of UoW and young people generally a sports ground which had been acquired using public subscriptions following Quintin Hogg's death. While there may originally have been a rationale for establishing the Charities as separate trusts, whether a result of timing, the fundraising and other processes leading to their creation, and geography, the trustees now consider that no such rationale remains.

The Charities are, however, separate from each other for legal purposes, and this has given rise to a number of legal issues when it comes to managing their assets effectively.

Proposals in relation to Chiswick properties

The Charities own two neighbouring sites adjacent to the River Thames in Chiswick, London (the **Sites**), both of which are currently used to varying degrees by UoW students but are in urgent need of upgrading. The Charities wish to develop the Sites to enable them to be used more effectively. A plan of the Sites is enclosed with this letter. As is clear from the plan, QHMF also owns land adjacent to QHT's site to the North of the Hartington Road.

Planning permission has been obtained to develop both riverside Sites, subject in each case to conditions regarding their future use. In particular, the local council has specified requirements as to community and other use of the resulting facilities as a condition of planning consent.

The approved plans were drawn up in close consultation with the UoW Student Union (**UWSU**), which has delegated responsibility for the provision of sport within UoW. The initial plans have been presented to UoW's Court of Governors, Vice Chancellor and Executive Board, UWSU and Quintin Boat Club.

The plans would provide a permanent home for UoW rugby and rowing as well as providing scope for broader educational and community outreach in the area.



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It is anticipated that the Sites would be operated by tenant entities, likely to be sports clubs with the capacity to deliver the community activities required by the Council. The Charities would lease the Sites to these tenants on terms which require them to provide the activities specified by the local council. The trustees have identified likely tenants for the Sites, although discussions are ongoing.

Issues arising from the proposals

The following technical legal issues have been identified in connection with the proposed development of the Sites, arising out of the fact that the two charities are differently constituted:

- QHMF does not have sufficient funds to develop its own Site, although QHT does have sufficient funds to develop both Sites. At present, however, QHT is unable to use its funds effectively to assist QHMF. Any funding from QHT to QHMF would have to be on restricted terms that would make it significantly less useful to QHMF.
- The proposal includes a shared access road and carpark which would be shared by QHT and QHMF. This would be very difficult to manage in charity law terms.

Proposal to apply to the Charity Commission to merge the Charities

In order to address these issues and enable the Charities to operate effectively in the future, the trustees are proposing to apply to the Charity Commission for a scheme to merge the Charities. Such a scheme would address various technical matters, including the release of the permanent endowment restrictions attached to QHT's funds, so that they could be used more flexibly, and the recasting of the combined entity's charitable objects. The proposed revised objects of the merged Quintin Hogg charity would be:

To advance education and in particular the education of young persons, provided that the trustees shall first give consideration to the needs of the University of Westminster and its students, and ancillary or incidental educational activities and other associated activities for the benefit of the community

The proposals would result in there being a single charity which:

- owns all the assets currently owned by QHT and QHMF;
- is able to fund the development of the Sites in line with the proposed plans;
- is able to support UoW more effectively, and (consistent with the existing charitable objects of the Charities) may also support broader educational activities, with a particular focus on young people; and
- may also support activities for the benefit of the community, so that community groups are able to use the Sites.

The trustees feel that the inclusion of this last point is important, as there has always been a strong community aspect to the activities of the Charities and UoW, including the formation of amateur sports clubs such as the Polytechnic Harriers, which was founded by Quintin Hogg in 1883 as an open club and had a membership that was broader than the student body. The trustees consider that allowing greater engagement with the community would in fact be more consistent with the wishes of Quintin Hogg than maintaining the existing restriction to education, and that it would in addition be socially and economically beneficial to individuals living near the Sites. The trustees consider that allowing the Sites to be used by the local community (subject always to furtherance of its educational purposes) would in addition help to



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promote the interests of UoW by raising its profile, including amongst potential students of UoW. Provision for community use is also a requirement of the local council under the terms of the planning consent.

Consultation

In order to agree a scheme for merger, the Charity Commission must be satisfied that the trustees have carried out a genuine and appropriate consultation exercise to take into account the views of the charities' stakeholders about the proposals. The trustees are proposing to consult the following stakeholders:

- University of Westminster
- University of Westminster Student Union
- University of Westminster Student Union Sports Coordinator
- UoW Rugby Club (via the Student Union)
- UoW Rowing Club (via the Student Union)
- Quintin Boat Club

The purpose of this letter is to ask you for your views. The trustees should therefore be very grateful if you would answer the consultation questions set out in the Appendix to this letter.

Please send your responses to John Gibbons, Secretary to the Trustees at info@quintinhoggtrust.org, to arrive by **Friday 29 May 2020** please. Should you have any questions in relation to the contents of this letter or the proposals more generally, please direct them to John in the first instance and he will consult the trustees as necessary.

The trustees wish to thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Godfrey Cole
Chair, Board of Trustees

Enc. Plan of the Sites



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Appendix

Consultation Questions

1. Are you satisfied that you have a clear understanding of what the proposals in relation to the Charities are?
2. Do you require any further information in relation to the proposals?
3. Are you supportive of the proposals?
4. Do you have (or are you aware of) any objection to the proposals?
5. Other than those mentioned above, is there anyone else you feel the trustees should consult in relation to the proposals?