

**Yerbury Parent Teacher Association, Governors, Guardians & Concerned Parents**

65B Foxham Road,  
Islington,  
N19 4RR

8th January 2020

**Tim Steiner**

Chief Executive Officer  
Ocado Group  
Buildings 1&2, Trident Place,  
Hatfield Business Park, Mosquito Way,  
Hatfield, AL10 9UL

Development of Ocado distribution depot next to Yerbury Primary School

Dear Mr Steiner,

We are writing to express our opposition to Ocado Group's proposals to build a new distribution depot <sup>1</sup> just metres from our school playground on air pollution, noise and safety grounds.

As parents, the protection of our children's health is our highest duty and since they have no voice in the planning process we must advocate for them.

**Air Pollution** - The combination of diesel Ocado delivery vans, staff cars, diesel HGVs for stock deliveries and three diesel fuel pumps just metres from the playground poses a serious threat to our children's health. The World Health Organisation has classified both diesel exhaust <sup>2</sup> and benzene <sup>3</sup> from fuel pumps as Class 1 carcinogens - known to cause cancer in humans. In the case of diesel exhaust, a known cause of lung cancer. A large body of evidence also exists showing a link between air pollution and smaller lungs <sup>4</sup>, cardiovascular and even developmental problems in children <sup>5</sup>.

**Noise** - The vehicle movements and noise associated with staff coming on and off shift, Ocado vans and HGV trailer deliveries loading and unloading and the refueling of Ocado vans and the diesel tanks just metres from the classrooms will create significant noise during the day while children are trying to learn. Added to this, the proposals include chiller units and a diesel generator which will further increase noise and disturbance. The school has already had to ask your contractors currently on the site to stop as noise levels in the classrooms were disrupting lessons.

**Safety** - Lastly, we note with deep concern that two Ocado distribution depots had major fires in the last year with one fire requiring the evacuation of residents over fears of a “toxic release or large cylinder explosion”<sup>6 7</sup>. These fires raise serious questions about Ocado’s safety record and of the wisdom of locating facilities of this type near children.

Yerbury Primary School is home to nearly five hundred children from ages three to eleven. It is they who will live with the pollution and noise from your depot for years to come.

Please Tim, don’t put this depot by our school.

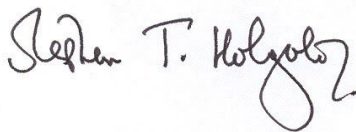
Sincerely,

Concerned Parents & Guardians of Yerbury Primary

Signed



Dr Bob Klaber OBE, Yerbury Parent & Consultant General Paediatrician, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust



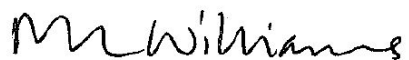
Professor Stephen Holgate CBE, MRC Clinical Professor of Immunopharmacology, University of Southampton



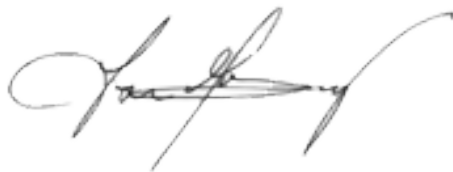
Professor Jonathan Grigg, Professor of Paediatric Respiratory and Environmental Medicine, Queen Mary University of London

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Grigg'.

Professor Chris Griffiths, Professor of Primary Care, Director (Acting), Institute of Population Health Sciences, Queen Mary University of London

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Griffiths'.

Professor Martin Williams, Head of Air Quality Science Policy and Epidemiology, King's College London

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Williams'.

Dr Ian Mudway, Senior Lecturer in Respiratory Toxicology, King's College London

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Heath'.

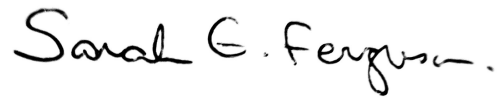
Laura Heath, co-chair Yerbury Parent Teacher Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Benson'.

Mark Benson, co-chair Yerbury Parent Teacher Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Benson'.

Imogen Chopra, Secretary, Yerbury Parent Teacher Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah G. Ferguson." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

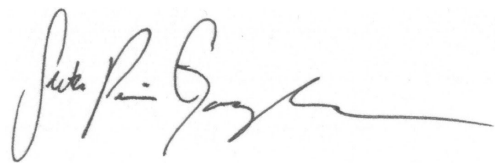
Sarah Ferguson, co-treasurer, Yerbury Parent Teacher Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Turner". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mark Turner, co-treasurer, Yerbury Parent Teacher Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mel Edrich". The signature is written in a cursive style.


Mel Edrich, Yerbury Parent Teacher Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr Seeta Peña Gangadharan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr Seeta Peña Gangadharan, Yerbury Parent Teacher Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tina Poyser". The signature is written in a cursive style.

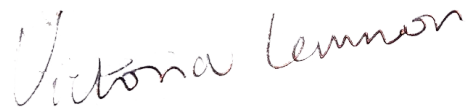
Tina Poyser, Yerbury Parent Teacher Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr Rosemary Marsh". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr Rosemary Marsh, Chair of Governors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenelle Bottoms". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Fenalla Bolton, Parent Governor



Victoria Lemmon, Yerbury Parent Teacher Association



Holly Hughes, Yerbury Parent Teacher Association

## References

1 -

<https://planning.islington.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorer/Generic/StdDetails.aspx?PT=Planning%20Applications%20On-Line&TYPE=PL/PlanningPK.xml&PARAM0=479837&XSLT=/Northgate/PlanningExplorer/SiteFiles/Skins/Islington/xslt/PL/PLDetails.xslt&FT=Planning%20Application%20Details&PUBLIC=Y&XMLSIDE=/Northgate/PlanningExplorer/SiteFiles/Skins/Islington/Menus/PL.xml&DAURI=PLANNING>

2 - [https://www.iarc.fr/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/pr213\\_E.pdf](https://www.iarc.fr/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/pr213_E.pdf)

3 - <https://monographs.iarc.fr/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/mono100F-24.pdf>

4 -

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667\(18\)30202-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667(18)30202-0/fulltext)

5 - <https://bmjpaedsopen.bmj.com/content/2/1/e000210>

6 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-50727440>

7 -

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ocado-orders-hit-by-second-warehouse-fire-in-six-months-gtcm0lvzm>