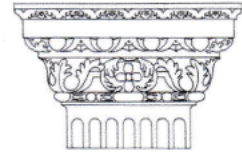


January 7th 2025

Our Ref: YMCA/2025 01 07 AA2

Asif Aziz Esq
Chief Executive
Criterion Capital

[Redacted]



By email & post

COPY

Dear Mr Aziz,

FUTURE OF THE CENTRAL YMCA FACILITIES AT 112 GREAT RUSSELL STREET

I hope this letter finds you well and best wishes for 2025.

As I am sure you know the sudden and unexpected announcement of the Central YMCA Club's closure has caused widespread consternation. The thousands of members and users, many schools, local councillors, the two local MP's and many others were shocked, particularly at the lack of transparency leading to this announcement.

Following this surprise announcement I was asked to make a deputation to Camden Council who supported a campaign to save this key facility. I write on behalf of a large group of members who formed after that meeting.

On December 6th inst. Criterion Connects kindly sponsored an event for the Soho Parish School (which uses the YMCA), now featured on your website. Your brochure states: "*Criterion Capital plays a vital role in enhancing community life in the West End and beyond.*"

As I'm sure you must be aware the Central YMCA Club is a unique multi-activity centre with a very wide range of activities, for example the largest programme for the elderly in England. It is a key part of community life in the West End and beyond.

We would like to meet with you to discuss how this key community facility might be continued in its current premises, but with improved management, a sustainable business model, and potentially a new brand. We believe that collaboratively, taking an innovative can-do approach, we could revitalise the Club's facilities and services in a form benefiting all involved. I have cc'd the two local MP's who have asked to be kept informed of our approach.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

David Bieda

Cc: Sir Keir Starmer KC MP; Rachel Blake MP;
Leaders, Camden & Westminster Councils.

