**Heritage statement**

23 Crimscote Square is a penthouse apartment within a converted Grade II-listed Victorian Asylum, formerly the County Mental Hospital (List UTD 1115413) dating from 1852. The official listing summary notes:

1852. County Asylum by Harris with additions of 1871-2. Large red brick building with stone dressings in Jacobean style. Two and three storeys. E- shaped on plan. Projecting three-storey centre-piece with shaped gabled with finials, flanking a clock tower with an octagonal stone cupola with lead ogee dome. The projecting wings also have shaped gables. Welsh slate roofs. Many later additions.

​The original Victorian building was divided and converted into apartments for modern residential use in the 1990s. Unfortunately the original conversion in the late 1990’s was undertaken unsympathetically, utilising inexpensive modern materials and to a poor standard. I have over the past 2 years of ownership where permitted and possible gone to significant lengths and expense to restore and expose some of its original period features, which were shrouded by cheap modern materials selected by the developer for their convenience rather than for their sympathy to the original building.

The proposed removal and replacement of the modern low-quality soft wood and MDF internal staircase will not necessitate the removal of, or cause any damage whatsoever, to the original Victorian fabric of the building.

The proposed replacement is an original Victorian cast iron spiral staircase, which has been salvaged and restored from another site. It was manufactured by the prestigious St Pancras Iron Works Co, founded by Sir Henry Bessemer (1813-1898), and is therefore of the period and character of the original Hospital. This will result in a far superior quality congruent & aesthetically pleasing improvement, which will be less intrusive than the existing structure because of its space saving design as shown on the plans submitted separately.

​In summary, on completion the project will represent a significant enhancement to this historic property, having repurposed the highest quality materials and style available from the same period.