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HAMARK

**LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR**

**We reject
Tolmers
claim**

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WE WOULD like to correct the highly misleading impression that may have been given by a quotation attributed to Camden Council leader Frank Dobson in your last issue.

Referring to the vexed issue of Tolmers Square, Mr Dobson apparently claimed that "when we went to the Department of the Environment, they said to go with the major developer (Stock Conversion) to ensure that Camden got the maximum return from the development."

We do not accept this claim. The only guidance the Department of the Environment was prepared to give Camden on this matter was contained in a letter of July 17.

There was obviously no indication in the letter to show that the Department of Environment would favour a deal with Stock Conversion on the one hand, or with our non-profit-making company Claudius Properties on the other.

It is true that Camden then retained the opinion of Mr George Dobry, QC, who claimed that the language of the letter was, in his view, "discouraging" to the Claudius proposal, and it was largely on the basis of Dobry's opinion that Camden decided to go with Stock Conversion on September 12.

We have always maintained that Dobry's opinion was a highly personal proposal, not to say tendentious interpretation, and we cannot confirm this view conclusively.

In fact we wrote to the Department asking them to clarify their letter, to ask whether it was intended to be discouraging. They replied quite categorically on October 4 that the wider "interpretation" which Mr Dobry chose to put on their words was "beyond the purpose" of their letter.

FENNY GRAY and
CHRISTOPHER BOOKER,
Claudius Properties,
5 Barratt Street, W1.