

Camden Irish Forum furious at council decision on Sinn Fein

A FURIOUS Camden group says the council's decision not to let a Holborn office to Sinn Fein is 'outrageous'.

Camden Irish Forum says the decision to blackball the IRA-linked political party is hypocritical because in the past Camden Council has courted extreme groups like the African National Congress (ANC).

The council vetoed letting the accommodation to Sinn Fein because it says property insurance costs would shoot up in the area.

But in a letter to Camden leader Cllr Richard Arthur, the forum's secretary, Pegeen O'Sullivan,

said she was 'astonished' the council could act 'without even ascertaining the facts'.

She said: "Will you in future refuse to let office accommodation to Jewish or anti-racist organisations, or indeed to a number of other minority groups, because they 'could be' the victims of extreme right-wing attacks?"

"Or is it a case of one law for the Irish and another for everyone else?"

Ms O'Sullivan added Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams was one of the initiators of the peace process, and arguably the most courageous.

But a spokesman for Camden Council said the situation had been all 'a bit hypothetical'.

An individual approached the council to rent offices, and only later said they would be for Sinn Fein.

By this time the office he had seen had gone to another tenant. Sinn Fein had not been in touch since.

He said: "Decisions on letting premises have to take into account the commercial viability of the letting and...whether the proposal represents the best use of particular premises in relation to the council's regeneration plans."