

High Court backs Michael Gove's decision on 'The Slab' redevelopment

The High Court has ruled in favour of former Secretary of State Michael Gove's approval for the redevelopment of London's South Bank.

Mitsubishi Estate received planning permission earlier this year from Gove, who was then Secretary of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, to transform 72 Upper Ground, the old ITV headquarters, as reported by [City AM](#).

The site, known as 'The Slab,' has been vacant since 2018, but Mitsubishi's plans propose its transformation into offices, retail units, and an arts and culture space, with a projected opening in 2028. Developers Lend Lease and Mitsubishi Estates were granted permission by the London Borough of Lambeth in 2022, but the case was escalated to Gove, who approved it last February.

Campaign group Save Our Southbank (SOS) launched a judicial review against this decision, which went to the High Court in October. Today, Mr Justice Mould ruled in favour of Gove's approval on all four counts.

Shinichi Kagitomi, chief executive of Mitsubishi Estate London, and Stephen Black, director at CO-RE, commented: "We welcome Justice Mould's judgement."

They added: "At every stage of the planning process, our transformational plans for 72 Upper Ground have had the backing of senior politicians and independent experts including Lambeth Council and its planning officers, the GLA, DLUHC and the planning inspector."

“We are looking forward to delivering an outstanding building that makes a significant positive contribution to the South Bank,” they concluded.

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SOS were contacted for a comment.

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