

Protecting theatres for everyone



Our Ref.: RA/2027

21 July 2017

For the attention of Mr Toby Cuthbertson

Mr John Walker
Operational Director of Development Planning
City of Westminster
City Hall
64 Victoria Street
London SW1E 6QP

Dear Mr Walker,

Prince of Wales Theatre, 31 Coventry Street, London, W1D 6AS

Application ref: 17/06171/FULL and 17/06173/LBC

I write regarding the above planning and listed building applications for minor internal and external alterations to the Prince of Wales Theatre. Please see our comments below.

Remit: The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. We were established through the Theatres Trust Act 1976 'to promote the better protection of theatres' and provide statutory planning advice on theatre buildings and theatre use in England through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, requiring the Trust to be consulted by local authorities on planning applications which include 'development involving any land on which there is a theatre'.

Comment: The Theatres Trust actively encourages theatres owners and operators to upgrade their venues to ensure they meet the needs and expectations of audiences, staff, and performers as well as meeting modern building and accessibility standards. We support the refurbishment of the -01 level female WCs and creation of additional WCs. The existing fittings are not original, having been installed in 2004, and we support the installations of new fixtures that suit the style of the theatre. With regards to the proposed access corridor to the 02 level fly floor, the existing access is a health and safety issue for technical staff and we support the provision of a safe and enclosed internal access point that removes the need to leave the building. The proposed corridor is in a back of house area of little historic significance and won't result in the reduction of dressing rooms or other essential support spaces.

In our opinion, the alterations are minor and do not affect the special architectural or historic significance of this heritage asset, but improve the operation and use of the theatre, thus the benefits outweigh any harm caused to the historic building fabric. The Trust therefore recommends granting planning and listed building consent.

This advice reflects guidance in Paragraph 70 of the NPPF which states that in 'promoting healthy communities', planning decisions should '*plan positively for cultural buildings*' and ensure that such facilities '*are able to develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable, and retained for the benefit*

Theatres Trust

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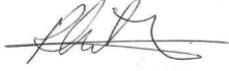
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The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

of the community'.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ross Anthony', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ross Anthony
Planning Adviser