

# Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/1979

17 December 2018

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Pending Applications  
Development Planning  
City of Westminster  
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**Application:** 18/10184/ADFULL

**Site:** 5 Great Newport Street, London, WC2H 7JB

**Proposal:** Detailed drawing revised to show the layout plans to increase the seating capacity of the theatre to approximately 400 seats. Pursuant to condition 36 of planning permission dated 29 April 2016 (RN:12/03930/FULL).

## **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:**

Thank you for consulting the Theatres Trust on the above application which seeks to discharge a pre-commencement condition requiring submission of detailed drawings showing a revised layout which increases the theatre capacity to 400 seats.

The plans submitted broadly meet our approval, and represent a further improvement compared to the iteration which caused us greatest concern as outlined in our response of July 2017. We appreciate the applicant and their design team taking our feedback on board.

We retain some concern about other aspects of the scheme, such as ensuring the theatre has sufficient street-frontage and prominence, that the theatre is viable, that there is a robust fire safety and evacuation strategy and engagement with Westminster's Licensing department, but appreciate these are outside the scope of this particular application. We would welcome continued engagement with the applicant and Council as proposals further develop.

## **Theatres Trust**

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

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**Chair** Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

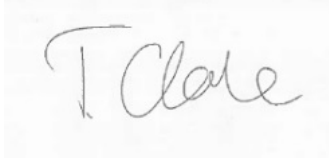
**Trustees** Richard Baldwin, David Blyth, Pam Bone, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, Ruth Eastwood, David Ian, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Dara Ó Briain, Simon Ricketts, Peter Roberts, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

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

In conclusion we **recommend discharge of this condition.**

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'T' and a clear 'Clarke'.

Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser