

# Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/2260

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**Applications:** 19/00069/LBC

**Site:** The Georgian Theatre Royal Victoria Road Richmond North Yorkshire DL10 4DW

**Proposal:** Listed Building Consent for Internal Modifications to Improve Seating and Sight Lines

## **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 Theatres Trust on the above application for listed building consent at the Grade I listed Georgian Theatre Royal. The proposal would result in adjusted seating positions in order to improve audience comfort and sightlines. Generally the Trust is supportive of efforts by theatre owners and operators to invest in their buildings and to improve the experience of audiences

The accompanying Design & Access Statement clearly sets out the current challenges for the theatre. In particular, some seating positions are rarely sold due to inadequate legroom and poor comfort and sightlines. In particular this is a challenge for disabled patrons.

Fundamentally the alterations are required to help support the ongoing viability and sustainability of the Georgian Theatre Royal as a valued community and cultural facility for Richmond and surrounding areas. This is being achieved in a manner which is reversible and creates minimal harm to the character and significance of the heritage asset. Paragraph 192 of

## **Theatres Trust**

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

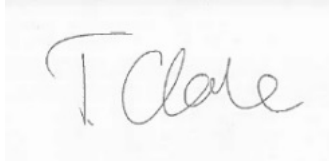
**Trustees** Richard Baldwin, David Blyth, Pam Bone, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, Ruth Eastwood, David Ian, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Dara Ó Briain, Simon Ricketts, Peter Roberts, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

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

the NPPF (2019) requires authorities to take account of the desirability of sustaining and enhancing heritage assets, with paragraph 193 giving great weight to their conservation. We consider there to be clear and convincing justification of the need for these works. Paragraph 92 seeks planning decisions to plan positively for community facilities including cultural buildings. We therefore **recommend the granting of listed building consent**.

Please contact the Trust if you wish to discuss this representation in more detail.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T Clarke', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser