

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2308

22 January 2020

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Development and Regeneration Services
Glasgow City Council
231 George Street
Glasgow
G1 1RX

By e-mail: planning.representations@drs.glasgow.gov.uk

Application: 19/00487/PPD

Site: Theatre Royal 286 Hope Street Glasgow G2 3PP

Proposals: Internal alterations.

Remit:

The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. We were established through the Theatres Trust Act 1978 'to promote the better protection of theatres' and provide statutory planning advice on theatre buildings and theatre use in Scotland through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulation 2013, 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:

This application for listed building consent has come to the attention of the Trust because it involves alterations within Theatre Royal, a Category A designated heritage and cultural asset for Glasgow. The proposed internal alterations cited by the application description refer to the removal and replacement of seating within the Dress Circle and Upper Circle as well as the addition of seating facilitated by the removal of an area of plywood panelling to the rear of both levels.

The seating layout of the theatre has altered throughout its history; images from the 1930s show seating within the Grand Circle (now the Dress Circle), Upper Circle and Balcony to have been accessed via a central aisle leading from a door to the rear. At a later point the Dress Circle and Upper Circles were altered to a multiple-aisle arrangement with the door and internal windows surrounding each level removed. It is to be assumed this was altered either upon the theatre becoming a studio and known as the Scottish Television Theatre in the 1950s, or when it was transformed back to a theatre in the 1970s.

Therefore it is clear that the panelling to be removed is not an original feature and the photographic evidence within the diagrams provided suggests neither are they features 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, Ann Skippers, Truda Spruyt, Anna Stapleton

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

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

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significance. Therefore we have no objections in principle to removal and support the theatre in adding additional seating which will provide a source of additional income to support its viability as a cultural asset for the city and Scotland.

It would be beneficial for the applicant to submit a Heritage Statement/Assessment which justifies their approach to carrying out these works and confirms there would be no harm to any features of significance or historic fabric. On that basis, we would **recommend the granting of listed building consent**.

Please contact us should you wish to discuss these comments further.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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