

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2790

24 December 2021

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The Economy Department
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King Street
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By e-mail: planning@lbhf.gov.uk

Application: 2021/04036/FUL

Site: Riverside Studios And Queens Wharf Crisp Road London W6

Proposal: Installation of 2no. Air Handling Units within the podium courtyard to serve the Riverside Studios arts and media centre located on the ground and first floors.

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:

This application has come to the attention of the Trust because it is seeking retrospective planning permission for two air handling units to serve Riverside Studios.

Riverside Studios is a long-established theatre and mixed arts venue which is an important cultural facility both within the borough and serving a wider London market. Emerging from a charitable trust with local authority support which took on the original studios which when the BBC vacated in 1975, it has developed and is now within a new complex completed in 2017 providing recording studios, theatre, cinema, rehearsal and general events space. It both produces new works and receives touring shows, as well as being available for use by outside organisations for filming and rehearsals. Paragraph 93 of the NPPF (2021) seeks planning decisions to plan positively for facilities of this nature.

These air handling units serve the studios, in particular Studio 2 which is the main theatre space.

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL
T 020 7836 8591 E info@theatrestrust.org.uk W theatrestrust.org.uk

Interim Chair Paddy Dillon Director Jon Morgan

Trustees Richard Baldwin, Paul Cartwright, Annie Hampson, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Jane Spiers, Truda Spruyt, Katie Town

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

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



It is vital that there is sufficient airflow and climate control to ensure comfortable conditions for audiences and safe working conditions for performers and staff.

The units are modest in scale and we note the findings of the acoustic report which state they are acceptable in terms of amenity and noise levels. Therefore we are supportive of the granting of planning permission.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or if you would like to discuss these comments further.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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