

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2305

12 January 2022

Aoife Murphy
Strategic Place Planning
Aberdeen City Council
Business Hub 4
Marischal College
Broad Street
Aberdeen
AB10 1AB

By e-mail: pi@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Application: 211819/DPP & 211818/LBC

Site: Aberdeen Childrens Theatre 31 King Street Aberdeen AB24 5AA

Proposal: Installation of external pedestrian ramp with handrail to lightwell on east elevation

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:

These applications for detailed planning permission and listed building consent have come to the attention of the Trust because they are seeking development at Aberdeen Arts Centre to provide an external ramp.

The Arts Centre operates within the former North Parish Church, a Category A heritage and cultural asset of great architectural significance. It has a varied artistic programme including comedy, live music and theatre which serves the city and its wider catchment. It is physically linked to an adjacent building at 31 King Street which houses the Children's Theatre, also Category A listed. This application covers that part of the building.

Currently the Children's Theatre is only accessible externally from the street via steps, therefore it is inappropriate for wheelchair users and others with reduced mobility. This proposal seeks to address that by providing a steel pedestrian ramp above the lightwell from the location of the steps to the basement.

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

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

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Although this will have some negative visual impact on the building and its special character, this is minimised through design and mitigated through the public benefits associated with providing better equal access into this important facility.

Therefore we are supportive of the granting of planning permission and listed building consent.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss this representation in greater detail.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a light grey rectangular border.

Tom Clarke MRTPI
National Planning Adviser

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