

Protecting theatres
for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/1841

24 May 2023

Planning Services
Leeds City Council
The Leonardo Building
2 Rossington Street
Leeds
LS2 8HD

By e-mail: planning@leeds.gov.uk

Application: 23/00945/LI

Site: Grand Theatre 46 New Briggate Leeds LS1 6NU

Proposal: Listed building application for alterations to and refurbishment of the balcony and upper balcony WC's, including the removal of windows

Remit:

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 re-consulting Theatres Trust following submission of a revision to plans for the male upper balcony WCs along with further information within an addendum to the Heritage Statement in relation to both the balcony and upper balcony male WCs. We had previously indicated we would be minded to object to the

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

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Chair Dave Moutrey OBE

Director Jon Morgan

Trustees Paul Cartwright, James Dacre, Suba Das, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Lucy Osborne, 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

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granting of listed building consent due to removal of historic cisterns without appropriate justification. Other elements of the scheme – namely works to the balcony female WCs and infilling of windows – we were able to support from the outset.

The addendum now sets out why it is necessary for the cisterns to be replaced in each location, which provides the clear and convincing justification to meet the asks of paragraph 200 of the NPPF (2021). Furthermore one of the cisterns will be retained for re-location and display within the upper balcony WC with an information panel. This further mitigates harm arising from loss of these historic features.

We welcome the applicant's positive approach to concerns raised on this matter not just by ourselves but also Historic England and the West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service, and that they have brought forward a solution which both meets the theatre's audience and operational needs as well as conserving a feature of historic interest on site. We also welcome their commitment to seeing that the rest of the removed cisterns are made available to others for use or re-purposing.

Therefore we can fully support the granting of listed building consent.

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

Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

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