

Protecting theatres
for **everyone**



Ref.: TC/206

05 September 2023

Eleanor Grace
Pending Applications
Development Planning
City of Westminster
PO Box 732
Redhill
RH1 9FL

By e-mail: southplanningteam@westminster.gov.uk

Application: 23/05426/LBC

Site: Theatre Royal Catherine Street London WC2B 5JF

Proposal: Removal of existing WCs which serve the Garden Restaurant, installation of a goods lift in place of WCs, formation of timber stair case and the reconfiguration and refurbishment of an accessible WC which are both located adjacent to the new lift.

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 consulting Theatres Trust on this application for listed building consent

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

Telephone 020 7836 8591 **Email** info@theatrestrust.org.uk **Website** theatrestrust.org.uk **Twitter** @TheatresTrust

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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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at the Grade I listed Theatre Royal Drury Lane. It seeks alterations to the WCs which served its Garden Restaurant in order to install a new platform goods lift.

The area subject to this application is behind the Garden Restaurant and contains three WCs, one of which is accessible serving the restaurant with a second accessible WC at a higher level serving the stalls within the theatre itself. It is within the main theatre building, opening onto Vinegar Yard. The theatre no longer operates the Garden Restaurant with it having recently been sold to a third party. Therefore the WCs are no longer required to serve the restaurant, and a new means of delivering general goods for the theatre is needed because there is a level change between the yard and the stalls exit.

In heritage terms this part of the building is less sensitive, having been refitted five years ago. The installation of a platform lift will enable the theatre to continue to service its facilities, and the accessible WC for the stalls will be retained but with a reconfigured layout. Therefore we raise no objections to the granting of listed building consent.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

Theatres Trust

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