

# Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2305

25 February 2022

Planning & Strategy  
City Development  
The City of Edinburgh Council  
Business Centre G2  
Waverley Court  
4 East Market Street  
Edinburgh  
EH8 8BG

By e-mail: [planning.local1@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:planning.local1@edinburgh.gov.uk)

**Application:** 22/00530/LBC & 22/00531/FUL

**Site:** Playhouse Theatre 18 - 20 Greenside Place Edinburgh EH1 3AA

**Proposal:** Erection of a temporary stair structure.

## 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 planning permission and listed building consent have come to the attention of the Trust because they are seeking development at the Playhouse. They seek installation of a link staircase for a temporary period to facilitate a forthcoming run of the Lion King.

The purpose of the staircase is to provide a covered and enclosed means of transfer for performers to transfer between the Circle and back of house. There was a similar proposal in 2019 which the Trust supported, and another before that in 2012.

We are again supportive of this proposal. It is a temporary intervention with reinstatement of the window which forms the opening for the doorway afterwards. We consider that harm to the significance of the building as a heritage asset is limited and is also mitigated by the public benefits of being able to host a run of shows which will bring people into the city and support the theatre's recovery from the pandemic.

## Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL  
T 020 7836 8591 E [info@theatrestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrestrust.org.uk) W [theatrestrust.org.uk](http://theatrestrust.org.uk)

**Chair** Dave Moutrey **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

Protecting theatres  
for **everyone**



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, slightly slanted style.

Tom Clarke MRTPI  
National Planning Adviser

**Theatres Trust**

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