

Protecting theatres for everyone



Ref.: TC/2010

20 September 2022

Jennie Humphrey
Pending Applications
Development Planning
City of Westminster
PO Box 732
Redhill
RH1 9FL

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

Application: 22/04979/LBC

Site: London Coliseum 32 - 35 St Martin's Lane London WC2N 4ES

Proposal: Installation of new fire detection and alarm system into auditorium

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 at the Coliseum, which seeks installation of a fire detection and alarm system. The Coliseum is a Grade II* listed heritage asset reflecting its outstanding architectural and theatrical significance, designed by renowned theatre architect Frank Matcham.

The auditorium currently has no system installed. Although this area is considered of outstanding significance and historic interest, there is clear need and justification for these interventions to ensure the theatre offers appropriate standards of safety for its audiences, performers, staff and other visitors. Furthermore enhanced early detection would optimise the chances of protection and conservation of important historic fabric and features as well as potentially the asset itself. The approach taken minimises harm by making the detectors and supporting infrastructure as unobtrusive as is practical.

Therefore we are supportive of the applicant's approach to these works and of the granting of listed building consent.

Theatres Trust

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



Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish 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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