

Ref.: TC/1863

28 February 2024

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**Application:** 139140/LO/2024

**Site:** Opera House Quay Street Manchester M3 3HP

**Proposal:** Listed Building Consent for the installation of new and replacement wireless access points throughout the theatre to improve access to wireless data for audiences

### **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 Opera House. It seeks the installation of new and replacement wireless access points.

#### **Theatres Trust**

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

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**Chair** Dave Moutrey OBE

**Director** Jon Morgan

**Trustees** James Dacre, Suba Das, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Lucy Osborne, Truda Spruyt, Katie Town

The rationale and benefits of upgrading the theatre's wireless infrastructure have been clearly outlined. There is a general operational and customer service need for functional wifi services, for example to operate sales terminals effectively, for audiences to be able to access and purchase services, and for staff to be able to communicate. Significantly it will also facilitate improved hearing assistance technology and audio captioning.

Whilst there will be some very limited harm arising from additional installations we consider the public benefits of enhancing provision for audiences with hearing and sight impairments as well as general operational improvements mitigates this.

We therefore support the granting of listed building consent.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss these comments in further detail.



Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

**Theatres Trust**

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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