

Ref.: TC/2306

23 August 2024

Adam Thomson
Planning & Strategy
Waverley Court
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
EH8 8BG

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

Application: 24/03436/LBC

Site: Kings Theatre 2 Leven Street Tollcross Edinburgh EH3 9LQ

Proposal: Alterations to the Dress Circle Bar: Adjust a section of the existing bar to provide a lowered service counter to improve access to the bar. Realign a section of the existing bar framing and panelling to create a wider staff entrance. Install a glazed screen and shelving within the existing opening between the bar and the foyer.

Remit:

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'.

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

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

Facebook @theatres.trust **Instagram** @TheatresTrust

Chair Dave Moutrey OBE

Director Jon Morgan

Trustees Vicky Browning OBE, Anna Collins, James Dacre, Suba Das, Liam Evans-Ford, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Tracy Ann Oberman, Lucy Osborne, Saratha Rajeswaran, Truda Spruyt, Michèle Taylor MBE, Katie Town

The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund supports the work of The Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

Comment:

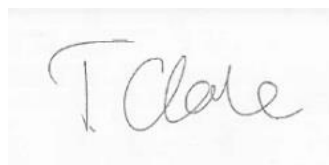
Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust on this application for listed building consent at King's Theatre, which seeks alterations to the theatre's Dress Circle bar as part of a major capital project. We commented on and supported a previous application for this bar and surrounding areas in late 2023, but that proposal was subsequently refused. This constitutes a revised version.

Previously the bar servery was to be relocated to the southern end of the room whereas it will now remain in its existing position. The rationale of the previous scheme was to address the bar's inefficiency and failure to meet modern standards of accessibility. However, refusal was on the basis of those benefits not outweighing the loss of historic character and significance.

This iteration provides a balance between the heritage significance of the bar and the need to meet the needs and standards expected by modern audiences. A small section of the bar adjacent to the southern doorway will be lowered to meet accessibility standards. Adjacent to the northern doorway, the panelling will be realigned to widen the serving staff entry to the bar. The folding panels to the rear of the bar opening into the main Dress Circle foyer will be removed to allow the bar to serve both sides with glass shelving and a screen installed within the opening.

As noted above we had supported the previous version, and given this proposal retains much of the original character and significance of the Dress Circle Bar area whilst improving its function and accessibility, we continue to support the granting of listed building consent.

Please contact us if you wish to discuss these comments in further detail.



Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

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

Facebook @theatres.trust **Instagram** @TheatresTrust

Chair Dave Moutrey OBE

Director Jon Morgan

Trustees Vicky Browning OBE, Anna Collins, James Dacre, Suba Das, Liam Evans-Ford, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Tracy Ann Oberman, Lucy Osborne, Saratha Rajeswaran, Truda Spruyt, Michèle Taylor MBE, Katie Town

The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund supports the work of The Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697