

Ref.: TC/555

23 April 2024

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Pending Applications
Development Planning
City of Westminster
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By e-mail: southplanningteam@westminster.gov.uk

Application: 24/01755/LBC

Site: Duke Of York's Theatre 103 - 104 St Martin's Lane London WC2N 4BG

Proposal: Installation of like for like replacement of internal wifi access points and new wifi access points throughout the theatre.

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 Duke of York's Theatre. It seeks the installation of new and replacement wireless access points.

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 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. Largely this will consist of replacing existing equipment.

Whilst there will be some very limited harm arising from additional installations, we consider the public benefits particularly 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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