

Ref.: TC/1075

29 January 2025

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**Application:** 24/08958/LBC

**Site:** Harold Pinter Theatre Panton Street London SW1Y 4DN

**Proposal:** Installation of replacement and new WiFi access points throughout the theatre including the main 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 consulting Theatres Trust on this application for listed building consent at the Howard Pinter Theatre. It seeks to replace the theatre's wifi provision which includes installation of additional points.

**Theatres Trust**

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

**Telephone** 020 7836 8591 **Email** [info@theatrestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrestrust.org.uk) **Website** [theatrestrust.org.uk](http://theatrestrust.org.uk) **Twitter** @TheatresTrust

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**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

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The theatre's operator has carried out similar works across their other venues around the country and we have been consulted and provided comment on a number of those.

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.

With reference to paragraph 215 of the NPPF (2024), whilst there will be some 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 for the theatre and its productions mitigates this. More significant fabric and features are not impacted.

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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