

Ref.: TC/2004

20 February 2025

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

Application: 24/08959/LBC

Site: Playhouse Theatre Northumberland Avenue London WC2N 5DE

Proposal: Like for like replacement of WiFi access points throughout the theatre and seeks consent for the placement of new of APs within 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 Playhouse Theatre. It seeks to replace the theatre's wifi provision which includes installation of some additional points in various locations across the building including

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 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 auditorium.

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 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. Furthermore a number of locations are within less sensitive areas of the building, or are in discreet positions which will not interrupt features of significance.

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

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