



Our Ref: 2778/DS

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017

## **DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT**

recorded at

**The Forum  
9-17 Highgate Rd  
Kentish Town  
London  
NW5 1JY**

on behalf of

**Academy Music Group Ltd  
211 Stockwell Road  
Brixton  
London  
SW9 9SL**

**Circle Rest Improvements**

## **History**

The venue was built in 1934 and was originally used as an art deco cinema. After the cinema was closed, the venue re-opened as an Irish dance hall called The Forum. In the mid-1980s, it changed direction to a 2,100-capacity live music venue under the name of The Town & Country Club.

## **Proposal**

The proposed works are to increase the height of the existing circle rester, using steel circular hollow sections and glazing panels, from 750mm high up to 1100mm high, to provide safer facilities at the front of the circle, for patrons when standing during shows.

## **Design Access Statement**

The purpose of the report is solely to assess what effect the installation will have on the building. The current height of the rester is approx. 750mm, which is suitable for a seated position but during live performances many patrons stand and dance, which make the current height unsuitable and unsafe. The existing rester is formed from a steel truss made up of steel angles and flats, with a timber runner on top and a cushioned rester. The timber runner and cushioned rester are not original items and any alterations to these will not affect the historic listing of the building. The new CHS posts are to be welded to the top chord of the existing truss. Again, this will not affect the historic listing of the building as the CHS can be easily removed, without detriment, and the truss is concealed behind plasterwork and timber panels. New glazing panels are to be fixed between the posts to form the increased rester height, 1100mm high, without obscuring the view of patrons who are seated.