

Ref: FOI / 5986

24th September 2025

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request - Alley Theatre Closure

I refer to your FOI request and respond as follows:

I have a freedom of Information request in relation to the closure of the Alley Theatre in Strabane:

1. When was the leak in the Alley Theatre first detected?

Dark blemishes on the front of house timber flooring were first noted and reported in February 2025. Investigations were initiated thereafter.

2. What caused the water leak?

The leak was coming from a cistern in the toilets. The cistern was located in void behind a partition wall which required destructive works to access.

3. What has the leak damaged?

A moisture survey has indicated multiple areas in the ground floor area are affected. A more detailed assessment will be undertaken once the venue is closed to the public.

4. How much will the remediation work cost?

Unknown at this stage.

5. How long will the work take?

A detailed assessment will be undertaken once the venue is closed to the public. This will allow for the compilation of a detailed schedule of required works. At this stage it is estimated that works will take up to 6 months to complete.

6. What is the predicted loss in income for the closure?

Unknown at this stage.

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7. Will the insurance cover the cost of remediation?

It is expected that the costs for remedial works will be covered by insurance.

8. Has a firm been appointed to undertake the work?

Not yet.

9. Has an alternative venue been found to facilitate the events already booked?

Promoters have been contacted by Alley staff and provided with advice regarding alternative venues and given the opportunity to book alternative dates within the Alley.

10. Will the Alley Theatre have to pay compensation to event organisers due to the situation? If so, how much?

It is not expected that compensation will be payable to event organisers due to the cancellation of scheduled dates.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes.

Firstly, our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

John Kelpie
Chief Executive
Derry City and Strabane District Council
98 Strand Road
Derry BT48 7NN
Tel: 028 71253253 or email: john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
CHESHIRE SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: casework@ico.org.uk

I would however advise that the Information Commissioner has indicated that a review will not be undertaken unless the Council has first had an opportunity to reconsider its decision.

Yours sincerely

Aeidin McCarter
Head of Culture