

Organ Maintenance and Restoration



This Guidance is intended to assist Parochial Church Councils on the maintenance and restoration of church organs

Background

This guidance is given by the Church Buildings Council to all parochial church councils. From 1st January 2016, authority to carry out routine maintenance and tuning of organs without a faculty will be by virtue of List A in Schedule 1 to the Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2015. Carrying out works in List A is subject to conditions set out in the list.

It is a condition that for organs, any works do not involve tonal alterations, changes to the action or major dismantling of the instrument

Scope

The word ‘organ’ in the faculty Rules applies to both pipe and electronic (or digital) instruments.

Guidance

Use of the phrase ‘routine maintenance and tuning’

The emphasis in this sentence is to go on the word *routine*. Works done routinely do not require a faculty. This is intended to cover visits for tuning and regulation, fixing the occasional off-note, cypher etc.

There is a specific condition to this rule that the works must not include tonal alterations, changes to the action or major dismantling of the instrument. This condition is to make clear that whilst anything that is not routine needs a faculty, it is allowed, for example, to undertake minor dismantling (such as removing covers for access) during tuning visits. Any works that would not routinely be part of a tuning visit still need a faculty.

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