



A BRIEF GUIDE TO WORKS PERMITTED TO CHURCH BELLS UNDER LISTS A & B

Introduction

Various works to bells and bell frames can be undertaken without a faculty. These are set out in List A and List B in Schedule 1 to the Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2019. Carrying out works in List A or List B is subject to conditions set out in the lists. It is a requirement of carrying out any works to bells under List A or List B that regard is had to these conditions. In the case of List B works, the approval of the archdeacon must also be obtained before they are carried out and the archdeacon may apply additional conditions.

Because of the diversity of work to bell installations there will always be anomalies where the works proposed do not fit comfortably into either list. Where this is the case, the parish should contact their archdeacon, who will seek advice from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) Bell Adviser and advise if a faculty is required or not. When work to bells would have an impact on a turret clock the DAC Clock Adviser should also be consulted.

Safe maintenance of bells

Regular visual inspection of the belfry and removal of any debris is vital for the safe and long-lasting operation of the installation. It is good practice to visit the tower only when there is someone else present in the church, and always to notify someone that you are inspecting the bells and when you expect to complete your work.

Training in belfry maintenance is available from the Stewardship and Management workgroup of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (<https://cccbr.org.uk/tower-maintenance/>). It is appropriate to consider putting a contract in place for maintenance, especially if no one is available locally with the necessary skills and experience.

List A

The works in List A may be undertaken without faculty and without informing your archdeacon. They are to allow for the routine maintenance and inspection of bells that are in regular use and where there is a tower captain, or other person, who has sufficient skills and knowledge to ensure that the work is done with due regard to health and safety and the protection of historically significant parts of the installation. List A does not permit work requiring a bell to be lifted from its bearings or making alterations to an installation.

LIST A: Works that can be undertaken without a faculty and without consultation

1. The inspection and routine maintenance of bells, bell fittings and bell frames	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No tonal alterations are made to any bell• No bell is lifted from its bearings
2. The repair and maintenance of clappers, crown staples (including re- bushing) and bell wheels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Works do not include the re-soling or re-rimming of a bell wheel• No bell is lifted from its bearings
3. The repair or replacement of bell stays, pulleys, bell ropes (including in Ellacombe apparatus), rope bosses, sliders or slider gear	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No bell is lifted from its bearings
4. The repainting of metal bell frames and metal bell fittings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No bell is lifted from its bearings

List B

Works in List B require the Archdeacon to be consulted to confirm that a faculty is not needed. The Archdeacon will take advice from the DAC and its bells adviser before giving notice that the proposals may be undertaken without a faculty, or advising that they require a full faculty application.

As with List A, these works should only be carried out by persons with sufficient skills and knowledge to complete the work to a satisfactory standard, with due regard to Health and Safety and the protection of historically significant parts of the installation. This may require a bellhanger to carry out or oversee the works.

Although a series of relatively minor works may be all that is necessary to bring an installation back into use, the provisions of List B are principally for bells in regular use. If an installation is being brought back into use after a period of over 5 years a professional bell hanger must be consulted to see that all aspects of the ring are fit for use.

List B cannot be used for works that require the removal of the bell from the belfry or for works that involve drilling, tuning, or other work that would make a lasting change to the bell.

LIST B: Works that can be undertaken following confirmation from your archdeacon that a faculty is not required

1. The lifting of a bell to allow the cleaning of bearings and housings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regard is had to any guidance issued by the Church Buildings Council• No modification is made to the manner in which any bell may be sounded• No historic material is modified or removed
2. The like-for-like replacement of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• bearings and their housings• gudgeons• crown staple assembly• steel or cast iron headstocks• wheels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regard is had to any guidance issued by the Church Buildings Council• The works do not involve the drilling or turning of the bell• No modification is made to the manner in which any bell may be sounded• No historic material is modified or removed
3. The replacement of A. bell bolts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regard is had to any guidance issued by the Church Buildings Council
B. a wrought iron clapper shaft with a wooden-shafted clapper	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No modification is made to the manner in which any bell may be sounded• No historic material is modified or removed

LIST B, continued

4. The treatment of timber bell frames with preservative or insecticide materials	
5. The re-pinning or re-facing of hammers in Ellacombe apparatus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regard is had to any guidance issued by the Church Buildings Council• No modification is made to the manner in which any bell may be sounded• No historic material is modified or removed
6. The installation of an electric silent ringing device for the training of ringers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any work to an electrical installation or electrical equipment is carried out by a person whose work is subject to an accredited certification scheme (as defined in rule 3.1(6))• The device is installed in a location not normally visible to the public• No alteration is made to the fittings of the bells other than the installation of electric contacts and wires
7. The installation of louvres in a belfry as a sound control measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any fixings are made into mortar
8. The introduction of peal boards in a location not normally visible to the public	

