

## **DAC GUIDANCE NOTE ON THEFT OF METAL FROM CHURCH ROOFS**

1. This guidance note has been prepared by the DAC in consultation with the Commissary General and relates to a recently amended general Faculty regarding theft of lead from churches within the Canterbury Diocese.
2. If you suffer an incident of theft of lead, you should immediately inform the church's insurers of the full circumstances.
3. You should also notify your inspecting architect/surveyor and ask for his/her advice on how best temporary protection can be achieved.
4. To obtain emergency Faculty consent to effect the temporary protection agreed upon, please email the Diocesan Registry at [registry@wslaw.co.uk](mailto:registry@wslaw.co.uk) with copies being sent to your Archdeacon and the DAC. The Registry will seek the directions of the Commissary General as to whether she is prepared to give emergency consent to the proposals for temporary protection. When making her decision, she will take into account the views of the DAC on the temporary measures proposed, if these views have been communicated to the Registry.
5. As soon as the building has been protected as authorised by any emergency Faculty consent, you should discuss with your inspecting architect/surveyor the most appropriate way of repairing the roof on a permanent basis. The DAC commends the guidance notes by English Heritage and the Church Buildings Council on suitable materials which could be considered. The website links to these documents are below.  
[http://www.churchcare.co.uk/images/Alternative\\_roofing\\_materials\\_Version\\_2\\_January\\_2013.pdf](http://www.churchcare.co.uk/images/Alternative_roofing_materials_Version_2_January_2013.pdf)  
<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/theft-metal-church-buildings/theft-metal-church-buildings.pdf>
6. You will see that, with the exception of tiled and slate roofs, metal is still recommended as the most appropriate covering for large areas of roofing. Other materials may be suitable for small areas, such as vestry roofs and for use in valley gutters and for flashings, where those areas are vulnerable to theft.
7. When the PCC has decided, based on professional advice, which material it would like to use for the repair of the roof, outline proposals should be submitted by your architect/surveyor to the DAC for the Committee's preliminary advice.
8. When the DAC has reached a decision in principle, the PCC will be in a position to consider any necessary fundraising and to engage the inspecting architect/surveyor to produce a detailed specification for the work.
9. This specification should be submitted to the DAC for consideration with a view, in due course, of the issue of a "Notification of DAC Advice", which is used in support of a petition for Faculty.

10. Where the proposed repair falls under the terms of the general Faculty, the Archdeacon should be in a position to authorise the work as soon as the Notification of DAC Advice has been issued. The repair will be valid for the period of time stipulated by the Archdeacon, as advised by the DAC.
11. Replacement with an appropriate substitute material is only covered by the general Faculty if this is approved in advance in writing by the DAC and if the Archdeacon has given his authority, as in 10 above. Any proposals for repairs in an alternative material not falling under the general Faculty will need to be the subject of a normal Faculty application.
12. The ecclesiastical exemption which applies to the Church of England removes from PCCs the requirement to secure listed building consent for work on any of our churches which are subject to the Faculty jurisdiction. The normal secular planning process, however, does still apply and any material which will change the appearance of a church building is likely to require planning permission as well as a Faculty.
13. The DAC Secretary would be very pleased to answer any questions which you may have about this guidance note.

Ian Dodd  
DAC Secretary  
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