

METAL ROOF THEFT

Advice from the DAC

Current advice from Historic England says that where there has been a theft of lead/copper they will be sympathetic to replacing with alternative metallic materials. The DAC is therefore in support of proposals to use terne-coated stainless steel or zinc and would seriously question a parish wishing to replace like with like when a church has been a victim of metal roof theft.

(see <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/metal-theft-from-historic-buildings/heag128-metal-theft-historic-buildings/> [Reissue date: July 2017])

PCC's should develop their proposals for roofing replacement with their QI Architect who is best placed to advise on the most appropriate solution.

It will be necessary to confirm with the Local Authority whether planning permission for a change of material will be required. This is something that your Architect is best placed to do and would normally undertake on behalf of the PCC. It is hoped that Local Authorities will take the view, especially if the roof won't be visible, that they will not want a planning permission application. However, that is their call and Faculty cannot override that decision.

Once the PCC has got its proposals sorted, the following information needs to be submitted to the DAC Secretary: -

1. PCC Minute agreeing to replace the roof, stating which material has been chosen
2. Written confirmation whether planning permission is required (email will do)
3. Architect's specification for the works (which may need to consider the issue of insulation against noise) and any supporting drawings/photographs
4. Estimate from the proposed contractor
5. Post-theft photographs

who will then formally consult Historic England before seeking an Interim Faculty from the Chancellor so that the PCC can get the roof back on without having to wait for the 28-day Public Notice period to expire. The application can then be done through the Online Faculty System (OFS) afterwards while the roof is going back on.

If you need any further assistance do please get in touch with either:

Rupert Allen, DAC Secretary
0116 261 5332 rupert.allen@leccofe.org

Simon Headley, Historic Churches Support Officer
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N.B. This advice does not constitute authority for carrying out the works or proposals and an Interim Faculty from the Chancellor is also required.

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