

## REDUNDANT ORGAN - SUBMISSION FORM



# Redundant Pipe Organs

## *Guidance for Parishes*

(Produced in association with the Council for the Care of Churches)

This information leaflet is intended to help parishes that are seeking to acquire an organ, and to set out good practice for the disposal or relocation of a redundant organ.

The purchase of a redundant organ can be a cost-effective way of acquiring and preserving a musical instrument of quality. Where a suitable location can be found, the result can be pleasing for all concerned: instead of being neglected or even destroyed, the organ continues in use and gains a new lease of life. This is a most commendable form of recycling, and there are many successful examples.

The term 'redundant' is used to refer to an organ that has no future use in its present location. This is entirely different from being currently unused and unwanted.

## DISPOSING OF AN ORGAN

Redundancy always needs to be clearly justified. In some cases the reason will be obvious: e.g. intended demolition of a building. In others, a good case will need to be made as part of the planning process: e.g. if the organ is to become redundant because of re-ordering or changed use of a building. The denominational committee that deals with building issues should be consulted at an early stage, and its advice may be needed during the planning process *see footnote, page 2\**.

It is essential to establish the likelihood of permission being granted for removal of an organ. Clearly it is unhelpful to offer an organ for relocation if permission for its removal is unlikely.

Original builder & date	<input type="text"/>
Action type e.g. tracker	<input type="text"/>
Current address of organ	<input type="text"/>
Condition e.g. good working order	<input type="text"/>
Dimensions (width x depth x height)	<input type="text"/>
Number of manuals	<input type="text"/>
Stop list e.g. Manual I: 8, 4, 8, 8, 8, 16; Manual II 8, 8, 8, 4; Pedal 16, 16, 8.(stop names are not necessary)	<input type="text"/>
Contact details (i) for enquiries	<input type="text"/>
Contact details (ii) for invoice for listing fee (£25.00)	<input type="text"/>

**Please complete and return (with photographs if possible) to the address below**

*Titles available in this series are:*  
CHURCH HEATING AND THE ORGAN  
WRITING ORGAN REPORTS  
DEALING WITH ASBESTOS  
ACOUSTICS AND CHURCH MUSIC  
GUIDELINES FOR VAT ON CHURCH ORGANS

Further copies of this leaflet and other titles are available from:

THE INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ORGAN BUILDING

13 RYEFIELDS THURSTON BURY ST. EDMUNDS SUFFOLK IP31 3TD

Telephone & Fax: 01359 233433 e-mail: [administrator@ibo.co.uk](mailto:administrator@ibo.co.uk) Website: [www.ibo.co.uk](http://www.ibo.co.uk)  
Registered Office: Hartfield Place, 40-44 High Street, Northwood, Middx HA6 1UJ Registered in England Number 3136882

## ADVERTISING AN ORGAN

When it is agreed that relocation is the best way forward, the primary place for advertising the instrument is the website of the Institute of British Organ Building (IBO): [www.ibo.co.uk](http://www.ibo.co.uk). Notification of organs that are available should be sent to the Administrator of the IBO, ideally on the online form (within the Redundant Organs pages, under Services from the Main menu). For those without internet access, please use the form on the back page of this leaflet. A fee of £25 will be charged for advertising the instrument on the IBO website.

Potential new owners of the organ will only be able to judge its suitability if certain basic information is made clear. This basic information is:

- Maker and date
- Type of mechanism
- Address (where the organ is)
- Condition e.g. good working order, derelict
- Overall dimensions: Width, depth and height
- Number of manuals
- Stop list
- Couplers
- Photographs (two can be displayed on the IBO website).
- Contact details (not uploaded onto website but held by IBO Office)

Except as a last resort, it is not advisable to put an organ into storage: buyers need to see and hear what they are getting. It is good practice to obtain a professional report, including photographs, from a suitably qualified person before an organ is dismantled, whether or not the organ is going straight to a new home.

Online auctions, such as eBay, are not a desirable way of disposing of an organ, and are only a last resort for organs which cannot otherwise be found a home. Since the final acceptance of a bid constitutes a contract, a faculty or other permission is needed before an organ is put up for auction.

### *Note*

*\* In the Church of England the appropriate body is the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). Churches within other denominations will need to check with their appropriate authorities to ascertain that the correct procedures are followed.*

## ACQUIRING AN ORGAN

The following advice is offered to potential purchasers.

1. Parishes are strongly advised to obtain professional advice from an organ builder or consultant regarding the musical and technical quality of a particular instrument and its suitability for transfer to its proposed new home.
2. Alterations are expensive: an organ transfer will be most cost-effective if the instrument can be accommodated with minimal change. Careful measurement of the organ and intended site is an essential early step.
3. When relocating an organ, it is important to take the opportunity to carry out any overhaul or remedial work that may be needed; this is most easily done while the organ is dismantled, and will be much more cost-effective at this time.
4. The appropriate denominational committee\* should always be consulted.

### **Value**

Owners and purchasers should be aware that while the *replacement* value of an organ (e.g. for insurance purposes) will be considerable, the *resale* value will normally be small. This is because the market is limited and the costs of removal, overhaul and relocation are great. Circumstances will vary, but a cash donation to the owner will often be appropriate and appreciated. Since the purchaser will be relieving the owner of the expense of removal, there may well be a mutual benefit.

Small organs of historic interest – particularly those with good casework – are occasionally sold on the antiques market.

### **A final word to purchasers**

Do not be discouraged by the apparent difficulties. Many fine old organs are looking for a home. It may take time and persistence to find the right one, but there are great rewards in saving a good instrument.