

ORGAN ADVICE



The Scottish Federation of Organists

How to contact the Organ Advice Committee

The Scottish Federation of Organists

The SFO is a federation of the eight Scottish societies of organists. Its purpose is to provide help and support for organists of all denominations.

The Organ Advice Committee of the SFO makes available expert and impartial advice on the purchase, rebuilding or maintenance of organs, pipe or electronic. The committee, chaired by Robert Lightband, consists of a number of established experts, based all over Scotland. Over the twenty years of its existence, the committee's track record has been very good. In particular, its excellent co-operation with most pipe organ-builders has contributed to the continuing high standard of this work carried out in Scotland. Over the years members of the committee have successfully worked with makers of digital organs.

Pipe organs

Of course, the SFO is particularly concerned with the condition of pipe organs in Scotland. Many of these are over a century old and some are heritage instruments. A large number of outstanding instruments in Scotland have been preserved with the help of members of the committee.

The organ advisers will give independent advice on the condition

of organs and on the repair or restoration needed. They can comment on estimates given by organ-builders and give advice on progress during repair or rebuild works. In the case of heritage instruments, they can advise on grant applications. Advice can also be given on new pipe organ installations.

The adviser's first visit, and the written assessment which follows, are given free of charge, apart from basic expenses. The only requirement is that the church's insurance should cover this type of inspection (the insurance company will advise). Fees for any subsequent consultations will not be exorbitant.

Electronic organs

The advisers are also familiar with the range of electronic instruments, and with technical developments in this field, and can advise on purchase and installation. Members of the committee will not shrink from advising that a pipe organ of no great merit is not worth the financial investment in its restoration and that in some circumstances a digital organ will suit the church better.

Information booklet

Church Organs is a booklet compiled by the SFO and the Church of Scotland, which gives detailed information and advice on both pipe and electronic organs. Essential reading for parishes of any denomination contemplating a new

organ or a rebuild, *Church Organs* is available from the SFO contacts and website given overleaf.

Church of Scotland

The Church of Scotland already has a procedure in place. Individual churches should apply to the Committee on Art and Architecture, 121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN.
0131 225 5722
wordoc@cofscotland.org.uk

Scottish Episcopal Church

Enquiries from the Scottish Episcopal Church should be directed to Mr Robert Lightband 01382 862128
robert.lightband@blueyonder.co.uk

Roman Catholic Church

The SFO organ advice contact for the Roman Catholic Church is Dr Evelyn Stell 01506 510366
stell@scotsorgan.org.uk

Other denominations

Please contact in the first instance the Secretary of the Organ Advice Committee, Mr Stewart Alston 01236 424553
als4ton@tiscali.co.uk

Website

Further information can be found on the SFO website:
www.scotsorgan.org.uk