

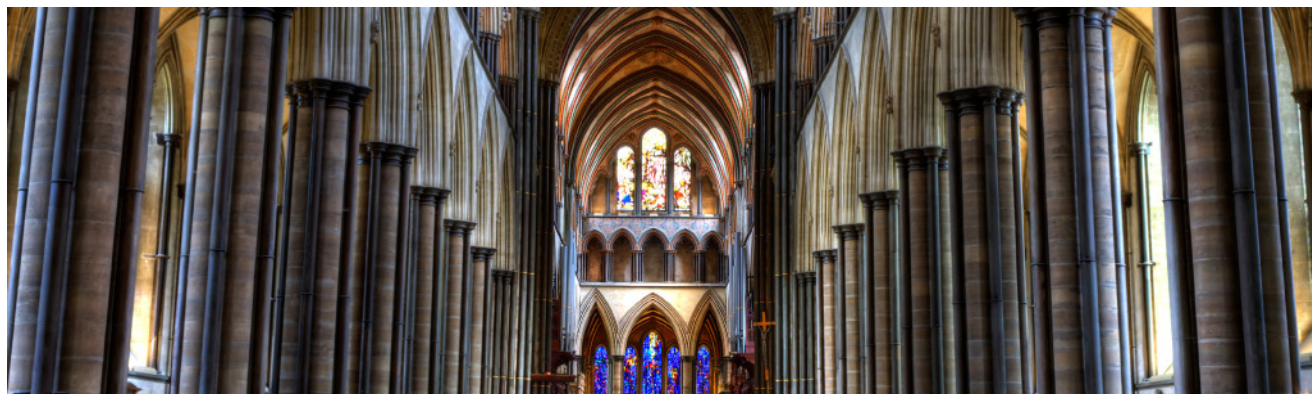
Lighting and Sound Equipment in Cathedrals

A Cathedrals Fabric Commission Policy and Practice Note

ChurchCare



16,000 buildings. One resource



The Commission considers all applications on their own merits and in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Care of Cathedrals Measure 2011 (the Measure) and the Care of Cathedrals Rules 2006 (the Rules).

This Policy and Practice Note sets out its expectations of an application and some of the considerations it will bring to bear on its decision-making.

Lighting and Sound

Any installation will be assessed on its material effect on the **architectural, archaeological, artistic or historic character of the cathedral**. This will include its physical impact on historic fabric and its physical and visual impact on the character and appreciation of the cathedral building.

The Commission strongly encourages all cathedral chapters considering installing new lighting – internal or external – or sound reinforcement equipment to draw up a clear **Brief**, based on an assessment of current provision, identification of deficiencies which need to be addressed, and a clear statement of key requirements of any new installation.

It also encourages chapters to involve the **Cathedral Architect** (and **Cathedral Archaeologist** as appropriate) closely in the process

of assessing current provision and drawing up the **Brief**. They are well placed to advise on, for example, retaining existing fittings of historic or architectural significance, and particular aspects of the cathedral building and its architectural character to which a new lighting or sound system should respond sensitively.

The Commission also strongly recommends that a proposal to commission a new lighting or sound reinforcement system is assessed by the chapter against its **liturgical plan** and against the **Conservation Management Plan (CMP)** where the cathedral has one. In the absence of a CMP, the Commission recommends that the Cathedral Architect and Archaeologist provide a statement on the nature and significance of the parts of the cathedral or fabric affected by the installation and the likely impact of the work.

The installation of new lighting or sound equipment might be considered under the Measure to comprise the permanent addition to the cathedral church of an object which would materially affect its character. As such, an application for its approval would usually be made **to the FAC** *CCM 2 (1) (d)*

However, in some cases the installation may necessitate **permanent alteration** to the cathedral fabric (such as removal of significant existing fittings or intervention in historic fabric to allow for cable or equipment installation) and so require an application **to the Commission** rather than the FAC. The Commission may also **call-in** for its own determination any proposal of such special interest such that it agrees the application should be determined by it. *CCM 6 (1) (a) (i) and (b)*





In practice, most recent **major** new lighting schemes in cathedrals have been a matter for the Commission rather than FACs because of their physical impact on the fabric and their significant visual and other impact on how the cathedral is seen and experienced.

The Commission strongly recommends that a proposal to install new lighting or sound reinforcement equipment is **managed by a named member of chapter** and developed in close discussion with the **Cathedral Architect** and the **Cathedral Archaeologist** so that the physical and other impact of the work is understood and any necessary mitigation incorporated from an early stage. This should be the case even where the detailed proposal will be developed by or with an external specialist consultant.

The Commission will expect any application to set out clearly how the proposal takes account of, or benefits from, **energy efficiency considerations** and **new technology**. It will also expect that **maintenance and upgrading considerations** and any **ongoing need for technical support** have been taken fully into account.

The Commission will also expect any application to set out how the visual and physical impact of the work is to be **mitigated**, where necessary (e.g. through design detailing, colour and finish of light fittings or speakers etc) and any measures taken to mitigate archaeological impact.

The Commission is mindful that the design and installation of new lighting and audiovisual systems will have an **access and accessibility** dimension. It will expect that access is considered fully by the chapter when bringing forward such proposals for approval, and that proposals refer to any relevant **access audit** or other assessment.

Any application should be accompanied by **supporting information** covering:

- **Introductory statement** by the chapter providing background information and setting the work in context.
- A statement of the **need** for the work.
- Reference to any **facilities audit** and **trials or mock-ups** carried out and how these have informed the proposal.
- Reference to the cathedral's **liturgical plan** and **access audit or assessment** (as appropriate).
- Reference to the cathedral's **CMP**, or a **statement of significance** on the fabric affected by the work.
- A **description** of the proposed work and **illustrative material** (drawings, visualisations etc). These might be provided by an external consultant.
- Any relevant **technical information** (e.g. product information, installation fixings and finishes etc).
- **Impact statements** by the Cathedral Architect and/or Cathedral Archaeologist as appropriate.

For **external lighting schemes**, the Commission recommends that chapters consult with **their local planning authority** at an early stage on any necessary consents and take into account any **local policy and guidance** on, for example, dark skies and light pollution.

Further guidance

The Commission and its Secretariat are always happy to offer procedural and project-specific advice at a pre-application stage. A full list of Policy and Practice Notes and other advice issued by the Commission can be found at: www.churchcare.co.uk via the Cathedrals – Guidance and Advice pages.

The Commission has issued brief guidance on new lighting in cathedrals. This is appended to its Guidance Note on Major Developments at cathedrals, which is also available on www.churchcare.co.uk via the Cathedrals – Guidance and Advice pages.

For advice and to discuss a potential project please contact the Commission via the Secretariat: Tel 020 7898 1888, 1862 or 1863 or e-mail: becky.clark@churchofengland.org

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