

New Art in Cathedrals

A Cathedrals Fabric Commission

Policy and Practice Note

ChurchCare



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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.

Introduction

The Commission strongly encourages all cathedral chapters to develop an **Arts Policy** for their cathedral to provide a framework for installation of all new works, and to guide the development of specific proposals. This Policy should be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. Any application for approval of a new art work should **make reference** to this Policy.

New art

Temporary installations do not require approval under the Care of Cathedrals Measure 2011. 'Temporary' is usually held by the Commission to be a period of six months and not more than twelve months. The Commission nevertheless strongly recommends that the chapter takes advice on any such installation from the cathedral's

Fabric Advisory Committee (FAC).

However, if a 'temporary' installation will necessitate work that will have a **material effect** on the fabric of the cathedral such that it would fall under *CCM 2 (1) (a) (i)* (for example significant physical intervention for fixing an installation), an **application for approval** should be made.

The Commission also strongly recommends that a proposal to install a new work of art is assessed by the chapter against its **liturgical plan** for the cathedral 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.

When the installation of a new work of art, in any medium, is proposed it will be subject to the same procedures under the Measure, and the same assessment of its effect on the cathedral's character and fabric, whether it is a **gift** to the chapter or a **work purchased or specially commissioned** by it.

The installation of a new work of art (sculpture, painting, object, new media installation etc) is usually 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 and so require an application **to the Commission** rather than the FAC. It is also open to the Commission to **call-in** for its own determination any proposal which gives rise to consideration of special interest such that it agrees the application should be determined by it. *CCM 6 (1) (a) (i) and (b)*

The proposed installation of a new work of art 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 recommends that a proposal to install a new work of art is managed by a **named member of chapter** and that proposals are developed in close discussion with the **Cathedral Architect** and the **Cathedral Archaeologist** in order that the physical and other impact of the work is understood and any necessary mitigation measures incorporated from an early stage.

Any new work of art should respond to a clear **Brief** set by the chapter. Where an artist is to be selected by open or limited competition it is advisable for the chapter to establish an **expert group** to assist it in its decision making.

Any application for approval of a new work of art in a cathedral

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

- **Introductory statement** by the chapter providing background information and setting the work in context.
- Reference to the cathedral's **Arts Policy**.
- Reference to the cathedral's **liturgical plan** and **CMP** (as appropriate) or a **statement of significance** on the fabric affected by the work.
- A copy of the **Brief** to the artist.
- A **description** of the proposed work and **illustrative material** (drawings, artist's impressions, photomontages, samples etc).
- A **statement by the artist** on the work, and biographical details of the artist.
- Any relevant **technical information** (e.g. installation fixings, fittings, hanging mechanisms, lighting requirements, maintenance issues etc).
- **Impact statements** by the Cathedral Architect and/or Cathedral Archaeologist as appropriate.

The Commission commends the advice document issued by the Church Buildings Council (CBC) on **New Art in Churches**, which although written primarily for parish churches includes advice and good practice which is also relevant to cathedrals.

This is available via the Cathedrals – Guidance and Advice pages on www.churchcare.co.uk

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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