



Redundant Organs



This note is intended to assist parishes and Diocesan Advisory Committees who are seeking to acquire an organ for reuse and to set out what it considers good practice over the disposal of an organ.

There are occasions when a pipe organ has no future use in its present location. The assessment of the strength of the case for relocation will sometimes be obvious and on other occasions delicately balanced. The Diocesan Advisory Committee should be consulted as part of the evaluation process, not least since there is little point in advertising an organ as available for relocation if, in fact, it is highly unlikely that its removal would ever be granted a faculty.

When it is agreed that relocation is the best way forward for an instrument the primary place for advertising the instrument is the website of the Institute of British Organ Building (IBO)

<http://www.ibo.co.uk/resources/pre-owned/relocation.php> and notification of organs that are available should be sent to the Administrator of the IBO, or submitted on the online form. An organ will not be advertised as available unless certain basic information is available, including its dimensions. It is helpful to include photographs.

A full report should be made of an organ before it is dismantled, both when it is going straight to a new home and when it is not.

Putting an organ into storage is very much a last resort and is generally not advisable, buyers want to see and hear what they are getting.

The reality of online auctions, such as eBay, can not be ignored. It is not a desirable way of disposing of an organ and should be regarded as a last resort for organs not otherwise found a home. Since the final acceptance of a bid is a contract a faculty is needed before putting an organ up for auction.

The Council will generally advise that other methods of finding a new home are tried for at least six months before an instrument is offered for auction.