



The theft of metals from church buildings is again on the increase. Lead is particularly susceptible as it can be more easily removed than some other materials and its market price keeps going up, making it more lucrative to would be thieves. Smart water and CCTV can help prevent theft as can good housekeeping procedures. However should the worst happen and you find your church has been attacked please follow the procedures below to ensure action is taken without delay.

On finding out that your church building has had lead stolen please follow the procedure below:-

- ❖ **Contact your local police and obtain a crime number**
- ❖ **Contact your insurance company and provide them with details of the theft and the amount of damage caused.**
- ❖ **Get a local contractor in to make the building water tight and to cover the affected area.**
- ❖ **Contact your Church Architect to begin the process of assessing the damage and getting quotations for any work.**
- ❖ **Contact Jonathan Pickett in the DAC office at Dunham House (details overleaf)**

If after consultation with the DAC office and your architect, it is decided that replacing the lead with lead is the preferred or most suitable option then please follow the following procedure:-

- 1. Supply a specification (preferably from your architect) and a quotation to the DAC office or direct to the Registry department at Dunham House (details overleaf).**
- 2. Once this information has been provided a Chancellor's Licence can be issued (from the Registrar) to allow the replacement lead work to go- ahead. This can normally be granted within a few days.**

If following several thefts or theft to a very large area of the roof, you decide (in consultation with your church architect) that an alternative to lead would be best then please:-

- 1. Get your church architect to obtain quotes for lead and at least two quotes for the change of material, usually terne-coated stainless steel as this is the best alternative to lead currently on the market but seek your architect's advice.**
- 2. Any change to the existing fabric of the building may require a faculty as well as consultation with English Heritage and your local authority. A case will need to be made to justify the need for a change from lead eg how much of a visual impact will this change of material make? Is the roof/area visible from ground level? A Statement of Need and photographs may be required to send to English Heritage, the DAC and local authority.**
- 3. A faculty may then be needed to be applied for in the usual way and an application form requested from the DAC office.**
- 4. In some cases it might be possible to obtain a Chancellor's Licence to enable the work to proceed more quickly, if there is good justification and agreement from all parties concerned.**

## CONTACTS:

**DAC Office:** Jonathan Pickett, DAC Secretary, Dunham House, 8 Westgate, Southwell, Notts NG25 0JL 01636 817210 [dac@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:dac@southwell.anglican.org)

**Registry Dept:** Chris Hodson, Registrar, and Elisabeth Crouch, Clerk to Registrar (address as above) 01636 817209 [elisabeth@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:elisabeth@southwell.anglican.org)

### Theft of metal

The recent rise in metal prices on the international market has caused a dramatic increase in the number of roof and other metal thefts from churches, causing immense damage. In 2010 Ecclesiastical had 1,763 claims for metal theft, costing £3,310,488. In the past five years Ecclesiastical Insurance have received more than 7,000 claims for metal theft, at an estimated total cost of almost £23m (figures supplied by Ecclesiastical Insurance).

The theft of lead, copper and stainless steel roof coverings, copper lightning conductors, lead and copper rainwater pipes, bronze statues, iron gates and even church bells causes irreplaceable loss of heritage and huge financial costs. Not only does the metal have to be replaced, but water ingress through a damaged roof can also cause further damage to the interior. Damage can also be caused to surrounding timber and stonework as metal is torn or cut from its setting.

In order to prevent metal theft from your church it is important to review your security measures. Obvious, low-cost measures include the removal of ladders or other items which might facilitate access and the restriction of vehicle access. Ecclesiastical Insurance have published [theft of metal guidance](#) on security measures, as well as external signage.

In the case of replacing a stolen roof, please consider all the options. Lead has many advantages as roof material and can be fixed in such a way which makes it more difficult to remove. Your DAC will be able to advise you in more detail, but the Church Buildings Council have produced guidance on the uses of some alternative materials - available here [Metal Theft Alternative Materials](#).

The Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage (ARCH), spearheaded by English Heritage, the Police and the Crown Prosecution Service, is a new voluntary national network that will be used to take forward a range of initiatives and galvanise local action against heritage crime

[article from the Church of England 'Church Care' website]

### Further Advice:

[www.churchcare.co.uk](http://www.churchcare.co.uk)

[www.ecclesiastical.com/ourproducts/insurance/churchinsurance/index.aspx](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/ourproducts/insurance/churchinsurance/index.aspx)

[www.nationalchurchwatch.com](http://www.nationalchurchwatch.com)

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/theft-of-metal-roof-coverings/>

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