

Derby & District Organists' Association
Criteria for Organ Restorations

Edmund Stow (1949-2019) was a fine musician and organ builder who worked in the Derbyshire area for over thirty years, during which time he restored a significant number of instruments, often breathing new and vigorous life into instruments considered by some to be unworthy of expenditure.

As a memorial to Ed's commitment to maintaining organs in the county his executors wished to offer support to churches hoping to restore tired mechanical instruments that display the potential for many years of further service. Funds are limited and applicants must meet the criteria set out below.

- 1 In the first instance, any organisation wishing to carry out works to an instrument in a church should contact their Organ Advisor or Consultant. Churches of all faiths and other institutions are eligible to apply for a grant.
- 2 The instrument must be worthy of restoration and demonstrate the potential for many years of use after restoration. Instruments of historic interest will be afforded special consideration, though this should not be understood to preclude instruments by prolific builders or those who produced fewer instruments.
- 3 Instruments should be mechanical, though pneumatic or electric Pedal actions will not preclude consideration; similarly, electric stop action will not preclude consideration. Tonal changes to an instrument will be considered as part of a restoration or rebuild where appropriate.
- 4 The Association Committee will wish to see:
 - The instrument before work commences
 - An Organ Advisor's or Consultant's report
 - A viable restoration scheme, complete with costings, supplied by a reputable builder
 - A faculty or any necessary permissions for the work to proceed
 - The organisation's accounts, with evidence of funds available to complete the proposed works
 - A regular organist or group of players able to use the instrument after restoration
 - Evidence of the future viability of the establishment, which might include: numbers attending; number of services held each week in which music is supported by the organ, and any supporting information that the applicant feels to be relevant.
- 5 Works to an instrument might not be a complete rebuild. Discrete work to the re-leathering of bellows might be considered, for example, if the rest of the instrument is considered to be in sound condition. Decorative works to an organ case would not be considered unless they were part of a complete restoration.
- 6 The overall condition of the building will be considered, especially the organ chamber. Any structural problems, damp, dry rot, wet rot, infestations, leaking roofs or windows would need to be addressed before any grant can be considered.
- 7 The Derby & District Organists' Association will consider grants up to a maximum of £5,000 or 25% of the contract price, whichever is lower.
- 8 Grants will be paid upon the satisfactory completion of the work.