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Alarms for Oxfordshire Churches. The fast track process.

E-Bound will administer our scheme, making the necessary surveys and installations and providing ongoing after care, as well as supplying copies of application forms to recover VAT, links to the HMRC site and guidance. They are very used to dealing with the Anglican Church's Faculty System, with the Police and with Ecclesiastical Insurance.

As soon as possible after you enrol in the scheme E-Bound will come out, conduct a free survey and submit an estimate. The survey will take a few hours. Installing the system will follow as soon as possible once you have accepted the estimate and confirmed that the necessary permissions have been received. Installation may take a day depending on the size of the church. E-Bound cannot install all the systems overnight but E-Bound, we and the diocese intend to work at speed.

A leaflet about E-Bound's alarm system is attached. The alarm does not go off every time a stray cat passes or bird lands on your roof. When it is triggered it sounds a piercing claxon and booms out a warning message that the intruder has been spotted, sets off flashing strobe lights and alerts the Alarm Centre which rings one of the numbers on the church's nominated contact list or, if you use this service, activates an urgent visit by a guard company.

The OHCT/E-Bound process has been designed to make life as simple as possible for the PCC, and to enable economies of scale and speed. It has three stages:

1. **Enrolment**- Your PCC, or equivalent body, should agree (perhaps informally by phone) that it wants to fit an alarm system to protect the church's roofs. It should nominate someone - typically a Church Warden- to be the contact with E-Bound and to complete the attached Enrolment Form. He or she should do this as soon as possible and send it to E-Bound by email copied to us. Our funds for these grants are as yet limited, and it will be 'first come first served'. Even churches, who cannot yet see clearly how they will find their half of the money are encouraged to enrol. If on the other hand you can muster 100% of the money needed, you are still welcome to use our fast track system and your installation will not be delayed by any shortage of funds at our end.

Patrons: Tim Stevenson OBE, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire; Bernard Taylor DL; Sir Hugo Brunner KCVO

President: The Rt Rev Colin Fletcher, Bishop of Dorchester

Hon. Secretary: Jonathan Scheele, 20 Portland Road, Oxford OX2 7EY

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On receipt of the Enrolment Form, E-Bound will send you a Pre-Installation Pack which includes advice on precautionary steps that you can take to defend your church before the alarm is installed.

2. **Survey and order**- E-Bound will come out as soon as they can to survey the church, work out the number of zones on the roofs needing cover and issue the consequent firm estimate of cost. There is no charge for this.

E-Bound will also provide your nominee with the necessary information to

- a) apply for your Archdeacon's approval (under the new simplified Faculty system in the Church of England), or the equivalent for other denominations
- b) fill in the application to OHCT for a grant
- c) place the order

On the same visit E-Bound will review your existing security precautions and advise on any further steps you can take before the alarm system is installed

Once you receive the estimate you should send in the form applying to OHCT for a grant. Funds permitting, we would hope to issue a notification of grant within 48 hours. The grant will be dependent on your receipt of the Archdeacon's approval (or the equivalent for non-Anglican churches).

Church of England churches should also apply for the Archdeacon's approval (preferably using the new online system). (The Application requires a **formal PCC resolution** committing to pay the estimated sum and the annual maintenance and monitoring costs). The Archdeacons have agreed to turn the applications around as quickly as possible).

3. **Installation**- You should copy the Archdeacon's approval (or its equivalent) to E-Bound who will then return to install the alarm. Once installed E-Bound will help with notification to Ecclesiastical Insurance so that your insurance cover in the event of metal theft is raised to give you full all expenses replacement cover. If your church has an approved marking system (e.g. Smartwater) and has a supply of the paint or spray, E-Bound will apply it whilst on the roofs free of charge¹.

OHCT's role

OHCT will oversee the scheme and E-Bound's performance and monitor the process at each stage.

As soon as we receive your grant application we will inform you of the level of grant we can give subject to you receiving the Archdeacon's approval for the

¹ Churches looking to benefit from full cover for metal theft from Ecclesiastical/Methodist Insurance (up to the limit of the building sum insured on their policy) have to install both an 'approved' roof alarm and applied SmartWater or an approved alternative

installation. Our Area representatives may well get in touch to see if they can give any advice.

We will pay you the promised grant by bank transfer as soon as we receive our copy of E-Bound's invoice.

Meanwhile we will publicize the threat, raise the funds to finance the scheme and keep in touch with the Archdeacons and the DAC to expedite clearances.

We are, however, an all-volunteer body and we cannot field multiple queries, which is why we have asked the experts at E-Bound to administer the scheme.

Steps you should take today

You should submit the enrolment form as soon as possible, but inevitably it will take E-Bound and us time to cover all the churches that apply.

But E-Bound recommend some simple steps you can take today to lessen the risk:

1. Set up a volunteer watch scheme to cover the next few months whilst the current gang(s) are at large and prior to alarm installation. As noted above it takes time for the thieves to strip a roof which is time for someone to spot suspicious activity and alert the police.
2. Display a warning notice on the church entrance and around the village informing the community that the PCC is not doing work on the roof and telling them to dial 999 and notify the police if they see men on the roof as they're almost certainly stealing the lead! (suggested text attached)
And ask your local Police Community Support Officers to include the Church on their patrols.
3. Insurance-approved marking can be used on property exposed to the elements, such as lead roofs. It does not damage items to which it is applied. For further details, please contact Katie Franklin (Katie@e-bound.co.uk)
4. Anti-climb paint has an appearance similar to gloss paint but it remains slippery, making it difficult for a climber to maintain a grip. The paint has the greatest deterrent effect when an intruder has to climb several feet before being stopped by a band of anti-climb paint. Axle grease is a cheap alternative!
5. Remove any obvious aids to theft. Ladders, wheelie bins or trees offering an easy climb on to the roof.
6. Restrict vehicular access to the site. Lock gates to isolated churches with heavy duty chains (Spelsbury having lost part of their lead now parks a tractor across the gate every evening).