

HISTORIC ORGANS AT RISK REGISTER (HOARR)

The Historic Organs at Risk Register (HOARR) has been established by the British Institute of Organ Studies in furtherance of the third clause of the registered **Aims of BIOS**:

To work for the preservation, and where necessary the faithful restoration of historic organs in Britain

BIOS defines an 'historic organ' as one which has been listed Grade I, II* or II by BIOS or, under the earlier scheme, has an ungraded Historic Organ Certificate. Provision is also made, where appropriate, for spot listing of organs reported as being at risk but which have not previously been nominated and assessed for Listing.

Three general categories are listed below, under which an historic organ may qualify to be considered at risk and eligible for inclusion on the Register. Examples for qualifying in each category are given as a guide, but the list is not intended to be exhaustive. Nominations for inclusion of an instrument on the HOARR are considered initially by a Panel comprising the BIOS Casework Officer, the Chairman of the Listing Committee and the HOARR Co-ordinator, with wider consultation if necessary and where appropriate. The nominations of the Panel are subsequently put to BIOS Council for endorsement before an instrument is placed on the list.

An organ is deemed to be 'At Risk' if its survival or historic integrity is under serious threat. Examples are given below:

1. At physical risk

- water from a leaking roof is directly affecting the materials and mechanisms of the organ
- severe damp conditions and humidity levels in a building are significantly affecting the materials and mechanisms of the organ to the detriment of its fabric
- a heating system is causing damage to the fabric of the organ due to excessive heat in the building, proximity of a radiator, and a consequent very low level of humidity
- the building in which the instrument is housed is suffering from vandalism
- there has been a fire within the building, and smoke or fumes have caused contamination to the instrument. There is a consequent need to ensure that the insurance claim provides for suitable and adequate cleaning and conservation of the organ

2. At risk through removal, inappropriate alteration, and lack of appreciation of heritage value and significance

- a church (perhaps of the 19th century) plans to remove an organ which was part of the original scheme for the building when the building was designed and constructed. BIOS would wish to lodge an objection to the removal of the instrument from the church.
- a church is planning to undertake a major internal re-ordering in which the space occupied by the organ is to be used for some other purpose. No planning is underway for the relocation of the instrument to a suitable new home and the assumption of the parish appears to be that the instrument can be broken up for parts or scrapped regardless of its heritage and significance.
- a church is planning significant and inappropriate alteration of a historic instrument.

3. At risk through a threat to the building in which it stands

- the church or hall is threatened with closure
- the church is closed but unheated: the damp conditions are adversely affecting the fabric of the organ and its working mechanisms
- the building in which the organ stands is due to be demolished
- a new use has been identified for a closed church, but the organ is surplus to requirement and needs to be relocated