

**Survey of users of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme
February / March 2025**

This document is probably best read on screen rather than printed

Please read this . . .

Harlow Consulting have been commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to evaluate the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

The Historic Religious Buildings Alliance (HRBA) strongly support this piece of work, and are encouraging listed places of worship to engage with the online survey at <https://harlowconsulting.welcomesyourfeedback.net/s/listedplacesofworshipgrantscheme>

The deadline is 25 March 2025.

The following pages consist of HRBA's screenshots of the key questions, to help you think about them in advance, and gather any information necessary. Copyright in the questions resides with those who produced the survey.

Note that questions 1 – 7 are not included here, as they are administrative questions about location etc. And questions 24 – 29 are not included here, as they are for those who do not use the LPWGS.

In case of queries about this document, please contact us at hrb@theheritagealliance.org.uk. For queries about the survey, contact Harlow Consulting at the email address given on the front page of the survey.

hrballiance.org.uk 28 February 2025

8. Using the following five-point scale, which would you say best describes the condition of your building?

- 1. Structurally sound, no repair needed
- 2. Structurally sound, but with need for minor repair or general maintenance
- 3. Generally structurally sound, but with some localised, currently contained problems (e.g. minor rot, infestation, masonry deterioration, some minor, currently manageable roof leaks, minor issues with drainage of gutters and downpipes)
- 4. Significantly compromised, with element(s) having problems that are non-localised or difficult to manage, and if unaddressed threaten the long-term stability or survival of the building (e.g. significant rot, infestation; cracking/deflection of structural elements; extensive masonry deterioration; extensive and/or significant roof leaks or signs of roofing failure)
- 5. Active failure of key building elements or clear signs of structural instability, posing an imminent threat to the survival of the buildings (e.g. loss of areas of roofing, broken or collapsing windows and doors, failure of structural elements, active subsidence, major deterioration of the interior, extensive severe masonry erosion and/or spalling and/or widespread loss of integrity to jointing etc.)
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say

9. Would you say that the condition of your building is better or worse than it was five years ago?

- Substantially worse
- Somewhat worse
- About the same
- Somewhat better
- Substantially better
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say

10. Using the banded ranges given below, what is your best estimate of the amount it would cost to address all your place of worship's repair needs (including VAT and delivery costs)?

- Less than £10,000
- £10,000-£24,999
- £25,000 - £49,999
- £50,00-£99,999
- £100,000-£249,999
- £250,000-£499,999
- £500,000-£999,999
- £1 million - £2.49 million
- £2.5 million £4.99 million
- £5 million - £9.99 million
- £10 million or more
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say

If you are able to give a more precise figure, please include it here:

11. In a typical year and including VAT, how much would you say your place of worship can afford to spend (without special fundraising efforts) on repair, maintenance and restoration works?

- Less than £1,000
- £1,000-£4,999
- £5,000-£9,999
- £10,000-£24,999
- £25,000 - £49,999
- £50,00-£99,999
- £100,000-£249,999
- £250,000-£499,999
- £500,000-£999,999
- £1 million or more
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say

If you are able to give a more precise figure, please include it here:

12. Over the next five years, do you expect this sum to increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

- Increase significantly
- Increase somewhat
- Stay about the same
- Decrease somewhat
- Decrease substantially
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say

13. If you spend the amount you expect to be able to on all works of repair and maintenance, conservation and alteration to your place of worship, what do you expect its condition to be in five years' time?

- 1. Structurally sound, no repair needed
- 2. Structurally sound, but with need for minor repair or general maintenance
- 3. Generally structurally sound, but with some localised, currently contained problems (e.g. minor rot, infestation, masonry deterioration, some minor, currently manageable roof leaks, minor issues with drainage of gutters and downpipes)
- 4. Significantly compromised, with element(s) having problems that are non-localised or difficult to manage, and if unaddressed threaten the long-term stability or survival of the building (e.g. significant rot, infestation; cracking/deflection of structural elements; extensive masonry deterioration; extensive and/or significant roof leaks or signs of roofing failure)
- 5. Active failure of key building elements or clear signs of structural instability, posing an imminent threat to the survival of the buildings (e.g. loss of areas of roofing, broken or collapsing windows and doors, failure of structural elements, active subsidence, major deterioration of the interior, extensive severe masonry erosion and/or spalling and/or widespread loss of integrity to jointing etc.)
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say

14. If your place of worship's future financial situation is in line with your expectations, how likely is it to have to close in the next five years due to difficulties paying for necessary repairs and maintenance?

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Very unlikely
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer not to say

15. To the best of your knowledge, has your place of worship ever applied for a refund of VAT from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme?

- No, it has never applied to the scheme
- Yes, there has been an application within the last two financial years
- Yes, more than two years ago and less than ten years ago
- Yes, ten years ago or more
- Not sure

16. To the best of your knowledge, what kinds of works of repair, maintenance, restoration and alteration have received a VAT refund through the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme? (please tick all that apply)

- Towers and spires
- Roofs and rainwater goods
- External walls and masonry
- External doors and windows
- Bells, bell ropes and frames, and turret clocks
- Internal masonry and walls, including repointing and replastering
- Internal doors and windows
- Permanent interior fittings (pews and organs, monuments, altars and altar rails, fonts etc.)
- Floors and floor coverings
- Decoration (including restoration of murals)
- Building services (heating, electrical, lighting, water, drainage etc.)
- Asbestos removal
- Security systems
- Kitchens, toilets, showers and other user facilities
- Damp remediation
- Professional fees
- Other (please specify)
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say

17. Thinking about the works you've carried out that received a VAT refund from the scheme, which of the following would best describe what would have happened had the funding from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme not been available?

- We would have carried out the works at the same time and in the same way
- We would have carried out the works, but they would have been delayed
- We would have carried out the works, but would have used a more economical approach (such as using different contractors, materials, or doing a less complete job)
- We would have delayed the works and used a more economical approach
- We would not have carried out the works at all
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say

18. What is your best estimate of the proportion, stated as a percentage, of the refund(s) you received from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme which was (or you expect in due course will be) reinvested in further repair and maintenance works?

19. How did you spend any refund that was not (or will not be) reinvested in more repair and maintenance (please tick all that apply)?

- Faith-based activities
- Community activities
- Paying running costs for the building
- Paying staff
- Reducing the deficit
- Increasing reserves (for purposes other than future repair and maintenance needs)
- Other
- Not applicable - we reinvested or intend to reinvest 100% of the rebate in further repairs and maintenance works
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say

20. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is least important and 5 is most important, please rate the importance of the following benefits of undertaking repairs and maintenance works to your place of worship that are supported by the grant scheme:

	1 - Least important	2	3	4	5 - Most important	Prefer not to say
The place of worship is able to remain in use in the same way as it is currently	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The place of worship can be opened to the public more often or more of the building can be open	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The heritage value of the place of worship is preserved for the future	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The place of worship is able to have more, and/or higher quality and/or larger acts of worship or congregational activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The place of worship can be used for more and/or higher quality activities for the wider community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The place of worship is a more pleasing space to be in	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The place of worship is a more comfortable place to be	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We are able to undertake repairs and maintenance in a timely way, and so avoid more costly and/or difficult works in the future	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The availability of this funding makes it easier to apply for and/or obtain other forms of funding for repair, maintenance and alteration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Are there any other benefits of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme you would like to tell us about?

21. How far do you agree with the following statements about the guidance and support available to applicants?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure	Not applicable	Prefer not to say
The guidance provided by the scheme is easy to read and understand.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The guidance provided by the scheme is about the right length and level of detail.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The guidance gives me the information I need to work out whether our place of worship is eligible for the scheme.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The guidance gives me the information I need to know whether the works we've done are eligible for a rebate from the scheme.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The additional support available (by telephone or email) is clear and responsive.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about the guidance and support available for applicants to the scheme?

22. How far do you agree with the following statements about the application and payment process?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree not disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure	Not applicable	Prefer not to say
It is easy to complete the application form.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is easy to provide the supporting documentation needed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is easy for us to find people with the time and expertise needed to prepare and submit the application.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
When we apply for funding from the scheme, we are given a decision in good time.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Once an application is approved, it is paid promptly.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
If our application is unsuccessful or only partly successful, we are given a clear explanation of why this is the case.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Receiving the grant in advance of completing and paying for the works would be more conducive to undertaking repair and maintenance work.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about the application and payment process?

23. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme?

30. If you were able to secure more funding to support repair, maintenance and alteration works to your place of worship, which of the following building elements, activities and expenditures would you use the funding to support?

- Towers and spires
- Roofs and rainwater goods
- External walls and masonry works
- External door and window repairs
- Bells, bell ropes and frames, and turret clocks
- Internal wall and plastering works
- Internal door and window works
- Permanent interior fittings (pews and organs, monuments, altars and altar rails, fonts)
- Floors and floor coverings
- Decoration (including restoration of murals)
- Building services (heating, electrical, lighting, water, drainage etc.)
- Asbestos removal
- Security systems
- Kitchens, toilets, showers and other user facilities
- Damp remediation
- Professional fees
- Other (please specify)
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say

31. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about repairing and maintaining your listed place of worship and/or the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme?

Final questions

32. Can you tell us what you would consider to be most important or valuable about your listed place of worship and/or the activities it supports?

33. Would you be willing for us to contact you to find out more about your answers?

- Yes
 No

Thank you for completing the survey questions. In order for your answers to be included in our analysis, please press submit below. Please note, that if you don't press submit, we will not be able to make use of your responses.

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