

ONLINE FACULTY SYSTEM UPGRADE



The headlines

- The Online Faculty System is being redeveloped to deliver substantial improvements for users as well as benefits to the wider Church.
- The test site is due to go live for diocesan users in mid-May. **The upgraded system is due to go live to all users in October** subject to a successful test-phase.
- The upgrade will deliver a modern user interface and process improvements, reducing the amount of time spent by approximately 20,000 people involved in developing, advising, and approving submissions.
- The project will also deliver improved system security and long-term cost savings.
- All 96,000 **live and historical cases** and associated documents will be transferred from the current system to the new site.
- **Abandoned cases** will not be transferred. The new system will only provide functionality for cases under the 2015 Rules if a Faculty has been granted and is awaiting a practical completion certificate. The conversion of open cases is being managed on a case-by-case basis.
- **All users will need to re-register when the new system goes live.** This will be managed via the CofE Portal. New accounts will connect to the CofE Content Management System (if your diocese uses it) enabling users to have multiple role types across multiple dioceses, avoiding multiple registrations.
- Long term, the system will be expanded to incorporate other legal processes connected to buildings and digitise paper-based tasks for churchwardens.

About the project

- The project has been informed by user interviews conducted in 2022 and 2023, together with input from a working group of seven DAC secretaries who provided feedback on the design and development of the new site.
- The project is funded by the Church Commissioners and administered through the *Buildings for Mission Fund*, which includes funding for specialist advice on the management, conservation, repair and development of church buildings.
- The price structure for the new system, with the integrated Faculty Management System, will remain fixed for 2025. Charges for 2026 and beyond will be reviewed later this year.

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System improvements

- The upgraded system will reduce the administrative burdens attached to church administration and casework management due to the automation and linked working required as part of the in-scope works.
- Users will only need one account to access the multiple functions required as part of their roles (rather than multiple logins currently needed).
- Enhanced functionality will include autosave, a more clearly defined process to move cases forward and backwards, and the self-deletion of user profiles.
- Improvements will also be made to case file management with version controls, and the ability to upload multiple files and larger document sizes.
- Users will also see enhanced mapping features connected to external data providers, and improved integration with Faculty forms.

For dioceses and the wider Church, the new system will:

- Deliver a single home for dioceses to access buildings and land management information*.
- Connect to the centrally-managed Contact Management System (CMS) and the CofE Portal, which will be used as a central login function and connect users with role types recorded in the CMS.
- Allow for broader building management processes, such as an inventory system.
- Improve the data collected through the system, providing national datasets that will be made available to each diocese.
- Ensure compliance with regulations and building-based legislation.

*A system for Cathedrals based on the new Online Faculty System is proposed following the successful implementation of this upgrade.

Training and support

Project information and FAQs will be available to users during this test phase on the [Online Faculty System area of the C of E website](#).

‘How to’ video prompts are built into the test site to guide new users through the Faculty process.

Training has been provided, and refresh training for all system users will be provided prior to launch in the Autumn.

Feedback

Diocesan users are encouraged to report queries and bugs to their DAC contact by the 14th August 2025.

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