

TECHNICAL NOTE No. 54

January 1995

Updated January 2006

Glazed External Protection for Windows

See also Technical Notes Nos: 14 Conservation of Historical Glass & 15 Stained Glass in Northern Ireland

Commonly known as storm-glazing, the material used is either glass or plastic sheet. Plastic is now rarely used and is not recommended for historic buildings. The impairment of aesthetic quality, both externally and internally, has prompted a ban on use of the system in some locations. There is an inevitable build-up of dirt and growth in the cavity between the two surfaces.

Provision of the protection may be considered in the following circumstances:-

Exposure to severe weather conditions.

Recurrent vandalism.

Attack by explosion.

As a holding operation for windows in poor condition.

Benefit of insulation or of noise reduction are slight.

Recommendations:-

The glazing should be cut to follow the shape of the opening.

It should be glazed into a non-ferrous frame and fixed by clips and screws of similar material.

A small ventilation gap should be provided all around the frame.

A programme of periodic removal and cleaning of all surfaces should be devised. Puttying the glazing into an opening or leaving a gap at the bottom only should be avoided.

During external cleaning of the building complete additional sealing of the opening is necessary.

Environment and Heritage Service

Built Heritage

Protecting Historic Buildings

Waterman House

5-33 Hill Street

BELFAST

BT1 2LA

Tel: 028 9054 3145

