

GENERAL SYNOD

THE PARSONAGES MEASURE (AMENDMENT) RULES

Explanatory Memorandum

1. Among its many provisions, the Parsonages Measure 1938 gives an incumbent (or the relevant diocesan bishop during a vacancy) power to purchase, sell or exchange a parsonage. The Parsonages Measure Rules 2000 ('the 2000 Rules'), made by the Church Commissioners under the rule-making power vested in them by the 1938 Measure, replaced and updated the original rules made in 1938 and, among other things, made detailed provision in relation to such purchases, sales and exchanges.
2. The Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure 2006 ('the MPM'), received final approval from the General Synod in July 2005 and has now received Parliamentary approval and the Royal Assent. Most of the provisions contained in the MPM were brought into force on 1st October 2006. However, before the Archbishops can bring into force the amendments made by the MPM to the 1938 Measure, the 2000 Rules need to be amended to reflect those amendments.
3. To complete the process begun by the MPM, the Commissioners have accordingly made the Parsonages Measure (Amendment) Rules ('the 2007 Rules') and, as required by the 1938 Measure, now present them to the General Synod for approval.
4. The effect of the 2007 Rules is as follows (all references in the following paragraphs to sections being to sections of the 1938 Measure as amended by the MPM).
5. **Rule 1** revokes the provision in the 2000 Rules prescribing forms of notice to be used in connection with sections 3(1) and 7, the MPM having deleted the reference to a 'prescribed form' from both of those sections. The Commissioners will instead publish in the Diocesan Parsonages and Glebe Manual a recommended form for each purpose, which may – but need not - be used.

6. **Rule 2** gives a patron or a parochial church council of a parish in the benefice in question a period of 21 days to make representations to the parsonages board under section 7 (in relation to the use of sale proceeds or equality money received on an exchange).
7. **Rule 3** requires the parsonages board to pass to the Commissioners, within five days of receipt, any representations made by the patron or a parochial church council under section 7.
8. **Rule 4** provides for the 2007 Rules to be called the Parsonages Measure (Amendment) Rules and makes provision for their coming into force and interpretation.

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Secretary
Church Commissioners