

GENERAL SYNOD
GENERAL SYNOD ELECTIONS 2015
Report by the Business Committee

Summary

The Synod is invited to approve the allocation of places for the directly elected diocesan representatives to the Lower Houses of the Convocations and to the House of Laity for the quinquennium 2015-2020.

The calculations have been made in accordance with the provisions of Canon H 2 and Rule 36 of the Church Representation Rules.

A summary of the proposed allocation for clergy places and any change from the allocation in 2010 is set out at Appendix A and for lay places at Appendix B. Appendix C sets out the overall position. The allocations of eighteen dioceses will be different under the proposed allocation from the allocation in the current quinquennium, eleven in the Province of Canterbury and seven in the Province of York.

Background

1. The Business Committee seeks the approval of the General Synod for the customary resolutions to allocate places for directly elected diocesan representatives to the Lower Houses of the Convocations and to the House of Laity for the quinquennium 2015-2020.
2. The legal requirements on which these resolutions are based are contained in Canon H 2 and Rule 36 of the Church Representation Rules.
3. While the principal reason for this report to the Synod is to provide the necessary background information to the resolutions before the Synod, we are also taking the opportunity to remind the Synod of the constitutional provisions affecting the timetable and to give notice of future plans for advising dioceses on the procedures to be followed.

Allocation of places

4. The program used to make the calculations set out in the appendices first makes provision for the Diocese of Sodor and Man, which has a fixed allocation of one seat in both the House of Clergy and the House of Laity, and then for those dioceses which might not otherwise be entitled to the minimum number of seats for directly elected diocesan proctors and directly elected lay members (3 in both cases). Finally, it allocates the remaining seats, calculated to 7 decimal places, using the divisor method adopted by the Business Committee¹.
5. It should be noted that seats are allocated on the basis of the *proportion of the total number of seats available in each Province represented by the actual number of clergy electors or numbers on electoral rolls in each diocese*. A fall in the actual number of clergy electors or in the numbers on electoral rolls in a particular diocese may, therefore, *not* result in a reduction in the allocation of places to that diocese when that number is calculated as a proportion of the total for the Province.
6. What is proposed in this report is consistent with the requirements of the provisions regulating elections to the Convocations of Canterbury and York and to the House of Laity.

¹ Pursuant to paragraph 2(c) of Canon H 2 and Rule 36(2) of the Church Representation Rules, the Business Committee has determined that the arithmetic mean divisor method should be used for these purposes. For further information about that method, see Appendix F.

Directly elected diocesan proctors

7. Canon H 2 sets out the requirements for elections to the Lower Houses of the Convocations of Canterbury and York.
8. For the purposes of these calculations we asked dioceses to provide us with the number of electors on the Register of Convocation Electors as at 31 July 2014, using the categories of electors set out in Canon H 2.4². The Diocese of Sodor and Man did not provide an actual number and the figure used has been derived from the data available from the Research & Statistics Department for 2012.
9. The Canon provides for a maximum number of proctors to be specially and directly elected for each Province: 133 in the case of the Province of Canterbury; and 58 in the case of the Province of York. For the purposes of these calculations, there need to be subtracted from those totals the *specially* elected proctors, who are: the Deans (Canterbury – 3; York – 2); and the Dean of Jersey *or* the Dean of Guernsey (Canterbury – 1). This leaves maximum totals of 129 *directly* elected proctors in the Province of Canterbury and 56 in York to be divided amongst the dioceses of each Province (in effect the same 70/30 split as pertains to the House of Laity under Rule 36 of the Church Representation Rules – see below).
10. **We recommend** that, as in the past, the maximum number of directly elected proctors permitted within the provisions of Canon H 2 be elected.
11. Canon H 2.2(b) provides that no diocese should have fewer than 3 directly elected proctors. Following changes agreed in July 2014, there is now only one exception to this provision: the Diocese of Sodor and Man, which has only 1 directly elected proctor.
12. **Appendix A** shows the number of directly elected diocesan proctors to be elected by the dioceses in each Province in 2015.
13. The Synod is required under Canon H 2 to determine the proportion that the number to be elected for each diocese bears to the number of electors in the dioceses. On the basis that the total number of clergy to be elected by each Province is as set out in paragraph 9, **we recommend** that the Synod determine the proportions as 129:9,200 in the case of the Province of Canterbury. The calculation for the Province of York excludes the 24 electors in the Diocese of Sodor and Man since that has a fixed allocation of 1 place and is, therefore, 55:3,142 (see Appendix A).

² They are:

- (a) all clerks in holy orders exercising the office of Assistant Bishop in the electoral area;
- (b) all archdeacons holding office in the area;
- (c) all clerks in holy orders beneficed in the area;
- (d) all clerks in holy orders holding office in a cathedral church in the area or, in the case of the Province of Canterbury, either of the two collegiate churches of St Peter, Westminster and St George, Windsor; and
- (e) all clerks in holy orders licensed under seal by the bishop of the diocese and all clerks in holy orders who are members of a deanery synod in the area and have written permission from the bishop of the diocese to officiate within that diocese

but excluding members of the House of Bishops of the diocesan synod, deans, members of the religious communities and, in the case of the Province of Canterbury, the Armed Forces chaplains and the Chaplain General of Prisons,.

In relation to category (e), the reference to a deanery synod is to be read, in relation to the Diocese in Europe, as including a reference to an archdeaconry synod and, in the case of the Diocese of Sodor and Man, as a reference to the diocesan synod.

14. These recommendations mean that the average number of directly elected proctors per elector has reduced somewhat since 2010, as shown in the table below:

	Canterbury	York (excluding Sodor & Man)	Both Provinces
Number of Convocation Electors (2010 figures in brackets)	9,200 (9,602)	3,142 (3,367)	12,342 (12,969)
Average number of electors to be represented by one directly elected proctor (2010 figures in brackets)	71 (76)	56 (62)	67 (72)

Directly elected diocesan lay representatives

15. Rule 36 of the Church Representation Rules sets out the requirements in respect of elections to the House of Laity.
16. For the purposes of these calculations, we have used the numbers on electoral rolls as at 31 July 2014 provided to us by the dioceses. Three dioceses, however, (Newcastle, Sheffield and Sodor and Man) asked us to use the figures they provided to the Research and Statistics Department for 2013.
17. Rule 36(1) sets the maximum numbers for directly and specially elected lay members at 136 for the Province of Canterbury and 59 for the Province of York. Two *specially* elected members need to be deducted from the total for Canterbury (from the Channel Islands under the provisions of the Channel Islands (Representation) Measure 1931), leaving a total of 134 for the province of Canterbury. There are no specially elected members in the Province of York. Subject to these maxima, the Synod is asked to fix by resolution the total number to be elected.
18. Rule 36(2) provides that the proportion of the directly elected members should as near as possible be divided 70/30 between the Province of Canterbury and the Province of York and that the number should be as near as possible proportionate to the number of names on the electoral rolls in that diocese.
19. **We recommend** that, as in the past, the maximum number of directly elected lay members permitted within the provisions of Rule 36 (193) be elected and apportioned 134 to the Province of Canterbury and 59 to the Province of York.
20. Rule 36 also provides that no diocese shall have fewer than 3 directly elected members. Following changes agreed by the General Synod in July 2013, there is now only one exception to this provision: the Diocese of Sodor and Man, which has a fixed allocation of 1 place.
21. **Appendix B** shows the number of directly elected lay members to be elected by the dioceses in each Province in 2015. The total number allocated to each Province has been divided between the dioceses of the appropriate provinces as nearly as possible in proportion to the number of names on their electoral rolls. The number for the diocese of Winchester has been calculated without reference to the electors in the deaneries of Jersey and Guernsey as the representatives of the Channel Islands are elected separately (see paragraph 17).

22. The impact of our recommendations upon the average number of persons to be represented by one member is set out in the following table:

	Canterbury	York (excluding Sodor & Man)	Both Provinces
Number of persons on Church Electoral Rolls (2010 figures in brackets)	773,022 (848,580)	270,776 (312,139)	1,043,798 (1,160,719)
Average number of such persons to be represented by one member (2010 figures in brackets)	5,769 (6,429)	4,669 (5,382)	5,408 (6,109)

23. The Diocese of Sodor and Man is excluded from this calculation due to its fixed allocation.
24. The present and recommended future representation of each diocese in both the House of Clergy and the House of Laity is shown in **Appendix C** and the proposed total composition of the Synod is shown in **Appendix D**.

Timetable and conduct of elections

25. The provisions governing the procedure for electing proctors for each diocese are contained in Canon H 2, the Clergy Representation Rules 1975-2014 and the Church Representation Rules. The timetable for the elections to the Convocations will ultimately depend on the contents of the Royal Writs dissolving the present Convocations and summoning new ones. The expectation is that the same timetable will apply to both the elections to the new Convocations and the elections to the House of Laity.
26. Rule 39 of the Church Representation Rules provides that, subject to any directions of the General Synod or the Presidents, elections to the House of Laity shall be held during the three months immediately following the dissolution of the General Synod. We would expect dissolution of the Synod to take place on or very shortly after Tuesday 13 July 2015.
27. The Clerk to the Synod has circulated a provisional timetable to dioceses on this basis and this is included at **Appendix E**.
28. Updated versions of the guidance booklets *Election Rules of the Three Houses; General Synod Elections 2015*; and *Guide to the Single Transferable Vote Regulations* will be published shortly. A conference for presiding officers and others will take place in March.

Recommendations

- i. On the basis that the total number of clergy to be directly elected by each Province in 2015 is 129 for the Province of Canterbury and 56 for the Province of York (see paragraph 9), the Synod is asked to determine that the proportion of directly elected proctors to the number of qualified electors in the diocese is 129 : 9,191 in the case of the Province of Canterbury and 55 : 3,142 in the case of the Province of York (see paragraph 13). The numbers to be elected by each diocese are set out at **Appendix A**.
- ii. The Synod is asked to determine that the total number of lay members to be elected in 2015 is 193 and to apportion that number between the Provinces in the proportion 70/30, so that 134 lay members are to be elected in the Province of Canterbury and 59 lay members elected in the Province of York (see paragraph 19). The numbers to be elected by each diocese are set out at **Appendix B**.

On behalf of the Business Committee
The Revd Canon Sue Booyes (Chair)

January 2015

Proctorial elections 2015
Number of proctors to be elected for each diocese

**Province of
 Canterbury**

Diocese	Number of electors 2009	Number of elected proctors 2010	Number of electors 2014	Number of proctors to be elected 2015	Change
Canterbury	247	3	217	3	
London	811	10	785	11	+1
Winchester ¹	320	4	291	4	
Bath & Wells	312	4	336	4	
Birmingham	237	3	212	3	
Bristol	210	3	220	3	
Chelmsford	505	6	518	7	+1
Chichester	481	6	407	5	-1
Coventry	193	3	190	3	
Derby	197	3	254	3	
Ely	248	3	279	4	+1
Europe	149	2	144	3	+1
Exeter	306	4	326	4	
Gloucester	280	4	231	3	-1
Guildford	365	5	324	4	-1
Hereford	161	3	171	3	
Leicester	215	3	193	3	
Lichfield	503	6	428	6	
Lincoln	259	3	276	4	+1
Norwich	317	4	287	4	
Oxford	731	9	670	9	
Peterborough	204	3	219	3	
Portsmouth	194	3	167	3	
Rochester	288	4	266	4	
St Albans	414	5	366	5	
St Eds & Ips	245	3	200	3	
Salisbury	386	5	372	5	
Southwark	593	8	538	7	-1
Truro	181	3	148	3	
Worcester	199	3	165	3	
	9,751	128	9,200	129	

¹ This figure excludes the Dean of Jersey or Guernsey (as the case may be), who is not elected.

Province of York

Diocese	Number of electors 2009	Number of elected proctors 2010	Number of electors 2014	Number of proctors to be elected 2015	Change
York	348	6	300	5	-1
Durham	283	4	252	5	+1
Blackburn	244	4	270	5	+1
Carlisle	224	4	180	3	-1
Chester	347	6	353	6	
Leeds ²	553	10	563	10	
Liverpool	309	5	289	5	
Manchester	392	6	365	7	+1
Newcastle	202	3	186	3	
Sheffield	202	3	190	3	
Sodor & Man	19	1	24 ³	1	
Southwell & Nottingham	215	3	194	3	
	3,338	55	3,166	56	

² The figures for the number of electors in 2009 and the number of elected proctors in 2010 represent the combined totals for the former dioceses of Bradford (162 electors / 3 elected proctors), Ripon & Leeds (168 electors / 3 elected proctors) and Wakefield (223 electors / 4 elected proctors)

³ This figure is derived from the data collected by the Research & Statistics Department for 2013

House of Laity elections 2015
Number of members to be elected by each diocese

**Province of
Canterbury**

Diocese	Number on electoral rolls 2008	Number of elected members 2010	Number on electoral rolls 2014	Number to be elected 2015	Change
Canterbury	20,592	3	17,337	3	
London	68,692	10	68,484	11	+1
Winchester ⁴	34,411	5	28,180	5	
Bath & Wells	35,128	5	31,028	5	
Birmingham	17,174	3	15,143	3	
Bristol	14,966	3	14,291	3	
Chelmsford	46,082	7	43,398	7	
Chichester	53,045	8	45,098	8	
Coventry	16,937	3	15,131	3	
Derby	18,003	3	15,814	3	
Ely	18,503	3	16,774	3	
Europe	10,558	2	10,096	3	+1
Exeter	30,912	5	27,029	4	-1
Gloucester	22,954	3	21,234	4	+1
Guildford	28,657	4	26,071	4	
Hereford	17,321	3	15,146	3	
Leicester	17,321	3	15,695	3	
Lichfield	43,229	7	37,546	6	-1
Lincoln	26,887	4	22,299	4	
Norwich	20,145	3	16,555	3	
Oxford	53,238	8	51,048	8	
Peterborough	18,795	3	19,143	3	
Portsmouth	16,820	3	14,547	3	
Rochester	29,521	5	27,079	5	
St Albans	37,717	6	32,730	5	-1
St Eds & Ips	22,830	3	20,053	3	
Salisbury	40,029	6	35,246	6	
Southwark	45,811	7	42,304	7	
Truro	15,591	3	13,727	3	
Worcester	18,622	3	14,796	3	
	859,138	134	773,022	134	

⁴ This figure excludes the 2 lay members elected by the deaneries of Jersey and Guernsey under the provisions of the Channel Islands (Representation) Measure 1931

Province of York

Diocese	Number on electoral rolls 2008	Number of elected members 2010	Number on electoral rolls 2014	Number to be elected 2015	Change
York	33,745	6	27,939	6	
Durham	22,139	4	18,537	4	
Blackburn	33,364	6	29,025	6	
Carlisle	19,857	4	17,674	4	
Chester	43,583	8	37,787	8	
Leeds ⁵	47,544	10	39,064	9	-1
Liverpool	27,519	5	23,131	5	
Manchester	32,191	6	27,735	6	
Newcastle	16,114	3	15,240 ⁶	3	
Sheffield	17,437	3	15,344 ⁷	3	
Sodor & Man	2,611	1	2,209 ⁸	1	
Southwell & Nottingham	18,646	3	19,300	4	+1
	314,750	59	272,985	59	

⁵ The figures for the number on electoral rolls in 2008 and the number of elected members in 2010 represent the combined totals for the former dioceses of Bradford (11,283 on ER / 3 elected members), Ripon & Leeds (16,805 on ER / 3 elected members) and Wakefield (19,456 on ER / 4 elected members)

⁶ This figure is derived from the data collected by the Research & Statistics Department for 2013

⁷ This figure is derived from the data collected by the Research & Statistics Department for 2013

⁸ This figure is derived from the data collected by the Research & Statistics Department for 2013

Elected membership of the General Synod

Province of Canterbury

Diocese	Elected Proctors		Elected Laity		Total Elected		Change
	2010	2015	2010	2015	2010	2015	
Canterbury	3	3	3	3	6	6	
London	10	11	10	11	20	22	+2
Winchester ⁹	4	4	5	5	9	9	
Bath & Wells	4	4	5	5	9	9	
Birmingham	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Bristol	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Chelmsford	6	7	7	7	13	14	+1
Chichester	6	5	8	8	14	13	-1
Coventry	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Derby	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Ely	3	4	3	3	6	7	+1
Europe	2	3	2	3	4	6	+2
Exeter	4	4	5	4	9	8	-1
Gloucester	4	3	3	4	7	7	
Guildford	5	4	4	4	9	8	-1
Hereford	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Leicester	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Lichfield	6	6	7	6	13	12	-1
Lincoln	3	4	4	4	7	8	+1
Norwich	4	4	3	3	7	7	
Oxford	9	9	8	8	17	17	
Peterborough	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Portsmouth	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Rochester	4	4	5	5	9	9	
St Albans	5	5	6	5	11	10	-1
St Eds & Ips	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Salisbury	5	5	6	6	11	11	
Southwark	8	7	7	7	15	14	-1
Truro	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Worcester	3	3	3	3	6	6	
	128	129	134	134	262	263	

⁹ The figures for the diocese of Winchester exclude the 2 lay members elected by the deaneries of Jersey and Guernsey under the provisions of the Channel Islands (Representation) Measure and the appropriate Dean, who is not elected.

Province of York

Diocese	Elected Proctors		Elected Laity		Total Elected		Change
	2010	2015	2010	2015	2010	2015	
York	6	5	6	6	12	11	-1
Durham	4	5	4	4	8	9	+1
Blackburn	4	5	6	6	10	11	+1
Carlisle	4	3	4	4	8	7	-1
Chester	6	6	8	8	14	14	
Leeds ¹⁰	10	10	10	9	20	19	-1
Liverpool	5	5	5	5	10	10	
Manchester	6	7	6	6	12	13	+1
Newcastle	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Sheffield	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Sodor & Man	1	1	1	1	2	2	
Southwell & Nottingham	3	3	3	4	6	7	+1
	55	56	59	59	114	115	


¹⁰ The figures for 2010 represent the combined totals for the former dioceses of Bradford, Ripon & Leeds and Wakefield


Proposed composition of the General Synod 2015-2020

	Canterbury	York	Either Province	Totals
House of Bishops				
Diocesan Bishops	30	12		42
Suffragan Bishops	6	4		10
	36	16		52
House of Clergy				
Deans	3	2		5
Diocesan Proctors	129	56		185
University Proctors			4	4
Religious			2	2
Chaplain General	1			1
Service Chaplains	3			3
Channel Islands Dean	1			1
Co-opted (not necessarily filled)	3	2		5
	140	60	6	206
House of Laity				
Elected Laity	134	59		193
Channel Islands	2			2
Religious			2	2
Lay Armed Forces			3	3
<i>ex officio</i>			2	2
Co-opted (not necessarily filled)	3	2		5
	139	61	7	207
House not specific				
Armed Services			1	1
Legal Officers			3	3
<i>ex officio</i>			2	2
Appointed members (Archbishops' Council)			6	6
			12	12
Totals	315	137	25	477

Provisional timetable for elections to General Synod in 2015

The present General Synod will be dissolved when the Convocations are dissolved by Royal Writs. This is expected to be on or very shortly after Tuesday 14 July 2015 following the July group of sessions. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have therefore approved the following provisional timetable for the election of the new Synod:

 The 'nomination period' must not be less than **28 days**

 The 'voting period' must not be less than **21 days**

1	Notification to electors of the election timetable to be followed in the diocese and issue of nomination papers	Not later than Tuesday 21 July
2	Notification of the validity of any nomination	As soon as any nomination is received
3	Closing date for nominations	Friday 4 September
4	Issue of ballot papers	Friday 18 September
5	Closing date for return of ballot papers	Friday 9 October
6	Day of the Count	Monday 12, Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 or Thursday 15 October
7	Names and addresses of those elected and result sheet to be sent to the Clerk to the Synod and to the Elections Scrutineer	Not later than the fourth working day after the date of the declaration of the result

Extract from GS 1484-7Y

Appendix VII Divisor Methods

1. Church Representation Rule 36(1) and (2) spells out the procedure for allocating the number of members to be elected by each diocese.
2. In practice, the first step is the allocation to the [Diocese in Europe and the] Diocese of Sodor and Man, both of which elect a fixed number of members.
3. The next step is the provisional allocation to the other dioceses of the number of members to be elected by each.
4. The provisional allocation to some of the dioceses may be less than the prescribed minimum of three. These dioceses are then “topped up” so as to ensure that each has the minimum allocation of three.
5. As the “topping up” procedure is at the expense of other dioceses, a new provisional allocation to these other dioceses is calculated.
6. The integer part of the figure calculated in paragraph 5 is the new provisional allocation for these dioceses.
7. The total sum of the provisional allocations is always less than the total number to be elected.
8. Church Representation Rule 36(2) says that the final allocation shall be “as nearly as possible proportionate to the number of names certified [for each diocese]”, but subject to the minimum of three and the fixed numbers for two dioceses [**NB**: now only one diocese].
9. The natural expectation is that the remaining seats will be allocated to the dioceses with the largest decimal remainder at the end of paragraph 6. Unfortunately, this is not satisfactory and, arguably, does not meet the requirement stated in paragraph 8.
10. The problem is that allocating in accordance with the largest decimal remainders is non-monotonic, that is, an increase in the total number to be elected in a province may result in a decreased representation in one or more dioceses, and vice versa.
11. A divisor method must be used to overcome this problem. There are five divisor methods available, any one of which comply with the “as nearly as possible proportionate” requirement.
12. The Largest Divisor Method tends to favour those dioceses with the larger certified numbers.
13. The Smallest Divisor Method tends to favour those dioceses with the smaller certified numbers, not including those that had to be topped-up.
14. In between come the Harmonic Mean and Geometric Mean. In practice, these rapidly converge on the Arithmetic Mean.
15. All elections, except one, to the General Synod have been based on the Arithmetic Mean Divisor Method. The one exception was the subject of a successful appeal.
16. The Arithmetic Mean is calculated by dividing the number of licensed clergy or church electoral roll numbers in each continuing diocese by $(n + \frac{1}{2})$, where n is the integer number calculated in paragraph 6.
17. The Arithmetic Mean numbers are arranged in numerical order, and the remaining places (paragraph 7) are allocated in order.
18. In the Largest Divisor Method, the division is by $(n + 1)$. In the Smallest Divisor method, the division is by (n) .