

GENERAL SYNOD**SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2015****Explanatory Memorandum**

1. The Single Transferable Vote Regulations 1990 to 2004 ('the STV Regulations') make detailed provision for the conduct of the various kinds of election to Church bodies which are required to be conducted by the method of the single transferable vote. Amongst the elections to which the STV Regulations apply are those to the Lower Houses of the Convocations of Canterbury and York and the House of Laity of the General Synod.
2. The STV Regulations make provision, amongst other things, for the public display of result sheets in elections, the notification of the results of elections, the preservation of voting papers and the filling of casual vacancies.
3. In July 2014 the General Synod gave final approval to a number of instruments making changes to the rules governing elections to the Convocations and the House of Laity. They included the Clergy Representation Rules (Amendment) Resolution 2014 and the Church Representation Rules (Amendment) Resolution 2014. Those instruments also made provision for the matters referred to in the preceding paragraph, with the result that, unless the STV Regulations are amended, there will be inconsistencies between them, on the one hand, and the Clergy Representation Rules 1975 to 2014 and the Church Representation Rules, on the other hand. The effect of the Amendment Regulations will be to remove those inconsistencies by bringing the STV Regulations into line with the Clergy Representation Rules and the Church Representation Rules respectively.
4. **Regulation 1** will amend regulation 18 of the STV Regulations, which deals with the deposit, inspection and display of result sheets, by repealing that part of the regulation which makes provision for the public display of result sheets for elections to the Lower Houses of the Convocations and the House of Laity. (Provision for that is now made in Rule 20(10) of the Clergy Representation Rules and Rule 39(12) of the Church Representation Rules respectively.)
5. **Regulation 2** will amend regulation 19 of the STV Regulations, which deals with the notification to candidates and others of the results of elections, by repealing those parts of the regulation which make provision for the notification to candidates of the results of elections to the Lower Houses of the Convocations and the House of Laity. (Provision for that is now made in Rule 20(9) of the Clergy Representation Rules and Rule 39(11) of the Church Representation Rules respectively.)
6. **Regulation 3** will amend regulation 20 of the STV Regulations, which deals with the preservation of voting papers, by disapplying its effect in relation to voting papers for elections to the Lower Houses of the Convocations and the House of Laity. (Provision for that is now made in Rule 20(11) of the Clergy Representation Rules and Rule 39(13) of the Church Representation Rules respectively.)
7. **Regulation 4** will amend regulation 22 of the STV Regulations, which deals with elections to fill casual vacancies, by disapplying its effect (save as regards the operation of 'constraints') in relation to casual vacancies in the Lower Houses of the Convocations and the House of Laity.

(Provision for such vacancies is now made in Rule 23(4) of the Clergy Representation Rules and Rule 48(6) of the Church Representation Rules respectively.)

8. **Regulation 5** deals with citation and **Regulation 6** with commencement.
9. Staff have prepared a text of the STV Regulations showing how they will be amended by the Amendment Regulations. It has been posted on the General Synod website and hard copies of it will be available from the Information Desk during the July group of sessions.
10. If the Synod approves the Amendment Regulations, a revised text of the STV Regulations incorporating the changes made will be prepared and published in advance of the elections to the Convocations and House of Laity that will be held later in 2015, together with a revised version of the booklet *Conduct of an election under the Single Transferable Vote Regulations 1990 to 2004: Notes for the guidance of dioceses*.

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June 2015