

**GENERAL SYNOD****Report on the Archbishops' Council's activities**

1. The Archbishops' Council presents this report on its activities since the February group of sessions in accordance with the requirements of the National Institutions Measure 1998. It has met on two occasions since its last report was prepared – on 23 March and 21-22 May.

***Reform and Renewal***

2. A major focus for members of the Council, both during and between meetings, has been the Reform and Renewal work streams. At the invitation of dioceses, members of the Council have been traveling the country to give presentations on Reform and Renewal and to engage in conversations about the work. A separate report is being circulated as GS Misc 1116.

***Other mission developments***

3. The Council discussed the current educational landscape and considered an initiative taken by the National Society to develop a new national teaching and educational learning partnership. The Synod will receive a presentation on the proposal on the Sunday evening of the group of sessions.

***Legislation***

4. The Council approved for circulation to the Synod the draft Ecclesiastical Property (Exceptions from Requirement for Consent to Dealings) Order 2015 (GS 1996). The Order arises from the Draft Church of England (Ecclesiastical Property) Measure, which received Final Approval at the November 2104 group of sessions and sets the limits below which DBF approval for property transactions is not required. It also agreed that regulations to amend the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Regulations should be brought to the Synod in July.

***Other issues***

5. The Council appointed a new Secretary General following a competitive process. It agreed its budget for 2016 (GS 2002) for submission to the Synod and its annual report and accounts for 2014 (GS 2001). It agreed a 1.5% increase in the National Stipend Benchmark for 2015.
6. The Council reviewed its risk register to ensure that the risks to which it was exposed had been properly identified and that mitigating measures were in place to manage those risks. It gave further consideration to the constitutions of the Council's Boards, Councils and Committees.
7. The Council received updates on current safeguarding issues. It also considered a number of issues likely to arise during the coming Parliament in the light of the outcome of the general election.

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