

GENERAL SYNOD

JULY GROUP OF SESSIONS 2016

SIXTH NOTICE PAPER

**ITEM 500: DRAFT MISSION AND PASTORAL ETC
(AMENDMENT) MEASURE**

ITEM 501: DRAFT LEGISLATIVE REFORM MEASURE

ITEM 502: DRAFT INSPECTION OF CHURCHES MEASURE

LEGAL OFFICERS (ANNUAL FEES) ORDER 2016

**ECCLESIASTICAL JUDGES, LEGAL OFFICERS AND OTHERS (FEES)
ORDER 2016**

Financial statement pursuant to Standing Order 108

1. Financial Statements under Standing Order 108 set out the estimated financial effect of implementing recommendations of reports and taking forward motions if they are passed by the Synod. In most cases figures provided are approximate, recognising the inherent uncertainty in estimating various factors. Members are asked to take this statement into account alongside non-financial factors when considering these items of business.
2. Estimates of the financial implications of any amendments proposed by Members will be provided either in a subsequent notice paper or in an oral statement from a member of the Archbishops' Council's Finance Committee who is a General Synod member (usually the Chair).
3. As agreed with the Business Committee, an item is included in this memorandum if (i) the estimated financial impact (either actual costs or savings or the opportunity cost or saving - e.g. the cost of clergy or staff time) is £20,000 or more or (ii) it is thought a statement on the estimated financial impact of a proposal is likely to be helpful to members. These thresholds are applied to the whole of any time-limited project or a period of three years for on-going activities.
4. If the cost of work on any motion, if passed, would fall to the Archbishops' Council, it would be met from within the Council's 2017 budget which Synod will consider at this Group of Sessions. For any work not already scheduled, the relevant Director, in consultation with others, would consider whether other work of similar cost should be dropped or postponed or if additional, unbudgeted, staff resource could be provided by securing funding from another source. Estimates of staff and clergy time are usually an opportunity cost, illustrating the cost of other work that would need to be dropped or deferred. If it is not possible to drop or defer sufficient other work, there would be an impact on the timescale for delivery of the requested work.
5. All costs are estimated at 2016 levels unless otherwise stated. Costs include relevant salaries, employers' national insurance and pension contributions. They exclude office costs such as the printing and postage costs involved in the preparation of new legislation, and the opportunity cost of Synodical time.

**ITEM 500: DRAFT MISSION AND PASTORAL ETC (AMENDMENT)
MEASURE (GS 2014A)**

6. The proposal in Clause 2 to enable dioceses to request the Commissioners to draft a scheme if they wish is likely to be broadly cost neutral for the Church as a whole. But for each scheme there would be clearly a modest saving in staff time for dioceses and a corresponding extra demand on time on Commissioners' staff. Initially it is considered such work will be able to be done within the Commissioners' existing staff complement. But if the casework load were to increase sufficiently, the Commissioners might need to employ an additional staff member on a part or full time basis. The cost of a full time post if it were to be deemed necessary at some point in the future is estimated at up to £40,000 p.a.
7. Clause 6 would make a significant change in the calculation of compensation for loss of office as a result of pastoral reorganisation. The difference in compensation payable by the responsible body (usually the diocese) if these proposals were brought into effect would clearly depend on the circumstances of each case. Under the current arrangements if a displaced office holder was paid at the level of the National Stipend Benchmark and the cost or value of provided housing was £10,000 p.a., the maximum level of compensation they would be entitled to is estimated at around £45,000 p.a.. This would be payable until the earlier of when the office holder reached pensionable age or obtained a similar role, although it could be paid as a lump sum.
8. Under the proposed arrangements in Clauses 6(3-5) the amount of compensation for this illustration would be a single payment of £45,000 plus any additional payments the bishop may determine under Clause 6(6)(1) or determined following a review.
9. The costs of the reviewer to be appointed by the Archbishops under Clause 6(4) are likely to depend on the volume of applications for a review made to them.

ITEM 501: DRAFT LEGISLATIVE REFORM MEASURE (GS 2027)

10. If the Measure proceeds, the cost of staff time to complete all the subsequent Synodical and parliamentary stages is estimated at £25,000. This exceeds the estimate given in February as it is now considered that provision should be made for three Revision Committee meetings and discussions with the Ecclesiastical

Committee. It is estimated that 80% of the overall work would relate to the Revision stage.

11. If the Measure is brought into force, the cost of staff time to prepare an Order and complete all the necessary stages to see it brought into force would be less than the cost of staff time incurred in connection with a Measure having the same legislative effect. But it is not possible to predict the extent of the saving, which would depend on the circumstances of the particular case.
12. There should also be a saving in Synodical time, given that, in contrast to the position in relation to Measures, the Synod would only need to consider an Order on a single stage procedure. But it is again not possible to predict the extent of the saving, not least in view of the proposal that the Synod should be able to refer an order back to the Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.

**ITEM 502: DRAFT INSPECTION OF CHURCHES MEASURE
(GS 2028)**

13. If the Measure proceeds, once it is brought into force it would no longer be necessary for dioceses to consider revising their schemes for inspection of churches. This would result in a saving of staff time at diocesan level, but such savings are unlikely to exceed the threshold for comment.
14. It is likely that the regulations in respect of inspections of churches that would be issued under Clause 1 would result in some savings for PCCs as the regulations would ensure the preparation of inspection reports that would support grant funding applications, thus removing some duplication. It would also mean that a parish would not have to re-tender for an architect for publically funded works. It is not feasible to quantify the extent of such savings.

**LEGAL OFFICERS (ANNUAL FEES) ORDER 2016 (GS 2036)
ECCLESIASTICAL JUDGES, LEGAL OFFERS AND OTHERS (FEES)
ORDER 2016 (GS 2037)**

15. The consequences of these proposals are set out in GS 2036-7X.

Canon John Spence
Chair, Archbishops' Council Finance Committee

July 2016