

GENERAL SYNOD

Appointment of Auditors to the Archbishops' Council

1. In 2008 the General Synod approved the appointment of BDO Stoy Hayward (now known as BDO) as the Archbishops' Council's external auditors. Earlier this year, five years after the appointment, it was decided to retender the external audit instruction.
2. The Council agreed with its Audit Committee's recommendation that a new agreement for the external audit instruction should be for up to ten years with a five year review point. Noting that it was normal practice for an engagement partner to remain in post for no longer than ten years, the Committee requested clarity on the arrangements for the selection of new engagement partner should the initial incumbent step down.
3. Three firms – selected on the basis of their engagement with the charity sector, size and reputation – were invited to tender for the appointment as auditor to the Archbishops' Council. Based on evaluation of the submitted tenders, two firms were invited to interview with a panel of Audit Committee members.
4. The selection panel comprised: Mary Chapman (Chair of the Council's Audit Committee), Jonathan Evans (Member of the Council's Audit Committee), and Keith Malcouronne (Deputy Chair of the Council's Audit Committee and General Synod member). Ian Theodoreson (Chief Finance Officer for the NCIs), David White (Head of Financial Policy and Planning for the NCIs and Client Accounting Director for the Council) and Tony Mulhere (the member of the NCIs' Financial Accounting Team with specific responsibility for the Council) acted as staff observers. Staff participated in the discussions but did not vote.
5. The selection panel considered that BDO offered the best value for money and the Archbishops' Council endorsed the panel's recommendation that BDO should be reappointed as its external auditors at its meeting on 29/30 May 2013.
6. Under the National Institutions Measure 1998 (clause 3(2)), the Council's accounts have to be audited "by such person as may be appointed by the Council with the approval of the General Synod". **A motion will be moved in York inviting the General Synod to approve the appointment of BDO as the Archbishops' Council's external auditors for a period of up to ten years.**

Mary Chapman
Chair, Archbishops' Council Audit Committee

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