

**GENERAL SYNOD****DRAFT CHURCH OF ENGLAND (NAMING OF DIOCESES) MEASURE****Explanatory Memorandum**

The Draft Measure provides for the name of a diocese to be taken either from the see of the bishop of the diocese or from the geographical area in which the see is situated and makes consequential provision.

**Background**

1. At the November 2013 group of sessions the General Synod passed the following motion which had been brought before the Synod by the Bradford Diocesan Synod:

‘That this Synod call on the Archbishops’ Council to introduce legislation to enable dioceses of the Church of England to be named by reference either to a city or substantial town or to a geographical area.’

**The draft Measure**

2. The draft Measure gives effect to the above resolution of the General Synod and makes provision for connected purposes
3. Clause 1(1) provides for the name of a diocese to be taken either from the see of the bishop of the diocese or from the geographical area in which the see is situated.
4. Clause 1(2) provides that where the name of the diocese is taken from a geographical area, the style and title of the bishop of the diocese is to be taken from that name. This is to ensure that the name of the diocese and the style and title of the bishop are the same.
5. Clause 1(3) amends section 4 of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007. Section 16 of the current Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure already provides for the amendment of that section to enable a diocesan or suffragan see to be renamed by a reorganisation scheme made by the Dioceses Commission. The amendment made by clause 1(3) will additionally enable a reorganisation scheme to rename a diocese.
6. Clause 1(4) amends section 11 of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007. That section currently provides for Her Majesty in Council to change the name of any diocesan or suffragan see on receipt of a petition from the bishop of the diocese concerned. The amendment made by clause 1(4) will additionally enable Her Majesty in Council to change the name of a diocese on receipt of such a petition.
7. Dioceses will retain their current names unless they are changed either by way of a reorganisation scheme or by Her Majesty in Council. If a new diocese were to be created by way of a reorganisation scheme its name could be taken from either a city/town or a geographical area.
8. Sections 4 and 5 of the Appointments of Bishops Act 1533 contain provision relating to the name and title by which a diocesan bishop is to be known. Clause 1(5) provides for those sections to have effect subject to the provision made by this Measure and subject to any changes in the name of a diocese that are made under sections 4 or 11 of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007.

9. Clause 2 contains provision for the citation, commencement and extent of the Measure. The Measure will not extend to the Isle of Man as the island is not subject to English law and the Diocese of Sodor and Man already forms an exception to the rule that a diocese is named after a see city. The Measure will be capable of being extended to the Channel Islands in accordance with the usual legislative procedure.

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