

**GENERAL SYNOD****Term of office of elected members of the Archbishops' Council**

1. Under the provisions of Schedule 1(1)(d)-(f) of the National Institutions Measure 1998, the Synod elects six members of the Archbishops' Council – two each from the House of Bishops, the House of Clergy and the House of Laity. The Synod is required (Schedule 1(4)(2)) to determine the term of office of those elected under this provision, such term not being less than three and not more than five years.
2. The elected members of the Archbishops' Council are in addition to the Prolocutor of the Lower House of the Convocation of Canterbury, the Prolocutor of the Lower of the Convocation of York and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the House of Laity, who are all *ex officio* members of the Archbishops' Council and as such fall outside the scope of this paper.
3. Those currently elected under the provisions of Schedule 1(1)(d)-(f) of the National Institutions Measure 1998 were elected to serve for a five-year term ending on 31 December 2010. It is anticipated that the two members of the House of Bishops, the Chair, Vice-Chair and the two elected members of the House of Laity can be elected by then. However, the provisions of the Standing Orders of the Convocations of Canterbury and York and of the House of Clergy, are such that elections to the Archbishops' Council by the House of Clergy cannot take place until the Convocations have each elected their Prolocutor. It is anticipated that the Prolocutors can be elected at the earliest by the week before Christmas. A total of around six weeks is needed to complete an election from nomination to declaration of results and this means that elections by the House of Clergy will not be completed until after the February 2011 group of sessions.
4. In order to avoid such a gap in membership in future, it is proposed that the elected members of the Archbishops' Council should serve until their successors are elected, but that their term of office should be no more than five years.
5. It should be noted that, in the case of those members elected under Schedule 1(1)(d)-(f), membership of the Archbishops' Council does not automatically cease with membership of the Synod: if elected members leave the Synod before the end of their term of office on the Archbishops' Council, they must either resign their membership of the Archbishops' Council or continue to serve until the end of their term of office. This would still be the case under the proposal in paragraph 4.

**Recommendation**

6. The Synod is invited to determine that those members of the Archbishops' Council elected to the Council under the provisions of Schedule 1(1)(d)-(f) of the National Institutions Measure 1998 in the quinquennium 2010-2015 should serve as members of the Archbishops' Council until their successors are elected, such term not to exceed five years.

Bishopthorpe

June 2010

On behalf of the Archbishops' Council

+Sentamu Ebor: