

GENERAL SYNOD

FEBRUARY GROUP OF SESSIONS 2018

TENTH NOTICE PAPER

ERRATUM – QUESTIONS PAPER

Question 44

The answer given to Question 44 contained a minor inaccuracy with regards to the bodies subject to Section 11 of the 2004 Children Act. This has been corrected in the answer below.

The Revd Canon Simon Butler (Southwark) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:

Q44 Has any consideration been given to the value to the Church of the process of Neutral Notification whereby an individual, concerned that their actions, however minor, towards a child or vulnerable adult might be misconstrued or misinterpreted, can make their own report to a responsible person without fear or detriment or stigma?

The Bishop of Bath & Wells to reply on behalf of the Chair of the House of Bishops:

A The current guidance on this matter is outlined in the House of Bishops Guidance “Responding to safeguarding concerns or allegations against Church officers”. This guidance is based on the Children Act 2004 (section 11) requirements for public bodies. These have been adopted by the Church as they represent best practice for a range of organisations. They expect that any information received about concerning behaviour needs to be shared with a safeguarding professional, in the Church’s case the DSA, for consideration. If an offence is indicated and/or there is a potential current risk to a child and/or adult this information will also be shared with statutory agencies.

DSAs are currently available for advice and support in relation to appropriate behaviour around vulnerable people. Outside of statutory organisational requirements, there is more flexibility to offer such a service, for instance 'Stop it Now' <https://www.stopitnow.org.uk/>.