

GENERAL SYNOD

DRAFT CROWN BENEFICES (PARISH REPRESENTATIVES) MEASURE

Explanatory Memorandum

Introduction

1. At the Group of Sessions in February 2008 the General Synod approved a set of recommendations contained in a report from the Archbishops on Crown Appointments. This followed a consultation carried out in the light of General Synod's endorsement of the recommendations contained in *Talent and Calling* ('the Pilling Report') (GS 1650) and the publication of the Government's Green Paper, *The Governance of Britain* (Cm 7170).
2. One of the recommendations approved in February was that legislation should be introduced to extend to Crown livings the rights of veto enjoyed by the two parish representatives under the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986. The draft Crown Benefices (Parish Representatives) Measure amends the 1986 Measure to that effect.

Notes on clauses**Clause 1: Amendment of Section 35 of the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986**

3. Clause one inserts new provisions into section 35 of the 1986 Measure so that the PCC of a benefice in the gift of the Crown, the Duchy of Lancaster or the Duke of Cornwall may appoint two of its lay members to act as representatives in connection with the selection of an incumbent. The normal rules as to who may be a lay representative will apply. The new provisions will mean that the Crown (or the Duchy of Lancaster, or the Duke of Cornwall) will need to obtain the approval of the parish representatives for the making of an offer to a particular priest before a formal offer to present him or her to the benefice can be made.

Clause 2: Citation, commencement and extent

4. Clause 2 makes provision with respect to the Short Title of the Measure, the procedure for bringing it into force, and its territorial extent.

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