Pastoral Scheme, Pastoral Order or Pastoral Church Buildings Scheme

Procedure followed by the Commissioners’ staff upon receipt of representations

Have representations been made against the draft Scheme or Order?

No

• We acknowledge representations.
• We invite the Bishop’s views on the representations (for and against). The Bishop gives views or may withdraw or amend the Scheme or Order (requiring it to be reissued in which case representations against the previous Scheme or Order fall away).
• All representors will receive copies of our correspondence with the Bishop. They may comment further or withdraw their representation.* All representations and relevant correspondence will normally be published on the Commissioners’ website.
• The Commissioners’ Mission, Pastoral and Church Property Committee will consider the representations in private unless a hearing is held (either in person or virtually). If a hearing is held we will inform representors and anyone may attend and may have an opportunity to speak.
• The Commissioners will consider the representations on the basis of a paper prepared by the staff and any points raised at a hearing and may decide:

(1) that the draft Scheme/Order should proceed (this may include amendments by the Commissioners, with the agreement of the Bishop, in response to the representations made). A statement of their reasons is sent to representors and interested parties.*

(2) that the draft Scheme/Order should not proceed. A statement of their reasons is sent to representors and interested parties.*

(3) to refer the Scheme/Order back to the Bishop for further consideration.

The Bishop may request that the Scheme/Order:

(1) remains in its original form and be adjudicated on by the Commissioners.
(2) be withdrawn.
(3) be amended and reissued. Representations against the previous Scheme or Order fall away.

The Bishop signs the Scheme which the Commissioners make and it becomes law. Copies will be sent to representors and interested parties.

NB. If there were adverse representations, the objectors have the right to seek leave to appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council against the Commissioners’ decision. The Scheme cannot be made until the outcome of this is known.

The Commissioners certify that the Order may be made. Once made by the Bishop it becomes law. Copies will be sent to representors and interested parties.

NB. If there were adverse representations, there is no right of appeal against the Commissioners’ decision.

Please see: www.churchofengland.org/consultation for further information about the process.

* For administrative purposes, a petition will be treated as a single representation in these respects