
 S T A T U T O R Y I N S T R U M E N T S

2020 No.

ECCLESIASTICAL LAW, ENGLAND

The National Ministry Register (Clergy) Regulations 2020

Made - - - - ***

Laid before Parliament ***

Coming into force - - ***

The Archbishops' Council, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 2 of the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure 2020(a), makes the following Regulations:

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the National Ministry Register (Clergy) Regulations 2020.

(2) These Regulations come into force on 1st May 2021.

(3) In these Regulations, “working day” means a day which is not a Saturday or Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday or a bank holiday in England under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971(b).

(4) A requirement in these Regulations to provide information (however it is expressed) is to be read as a requirement to do so in writing.

Registration information

2.—(1) In these Regulations, the “registration information”, in relation to a clerk in Holy Orders, is—

- (a) the clerk’s full name,
- (b) the postal address, and the email address, at which the clerk wishes to be contacted for purposes relating to these Regulations,
- (c) the form of authority to exercise ministry which the clerk has,
- (d) the area, place or activity to which the authority relates, and
- (e) if the authority is subject to a limitation of time, the date on which the authority comes to an end or details of the contingency on the occurrence of which it comes to an end.

(2) In the case of an assistant curate in respect of whom an instrument under section 99 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 is in force, the “registration information” also includes the terms in which the office of the assistant curate is described in the direction specified in the instrument.

(a) 2020 No.1.
 (b) 1971 c.80.

(3) In a case where a clerk in Holy Orders who has authority to exercise ministry is also appointed to the office of rural dean, the “registration information” also includes the date of that appointment.

Registration officer

3.—(1) This regulation applies for the purpose of determining who under these Regulations is the registration officer for a clerk in Holy Orders.

(2) For an archbishop, the registration officer is the other archbishop.

(3) For the bishop of a diocese, the registration officer is that bishop.

(4) For any other clerk in Holy Orders, the registration officer is—

(a) in relation to the clerk’s authority to exercise ministry in a diocese or an area of a diocese, in the cathedral of a diocese, in a private chapel in a diocese or at any institution or other place in a diocese (other than a Royal Peculiar), the bishop of the diocese;

(b) in relation to the clerk’s authority to exercise ministry in a Royal Peculiar (whether as the dean or in some other capacity), the dean of that Royal Peculiar;

(c) in relation to the clerk’s authority to exercise ministry as a chaplain in Her Majesty’s Forces, the Bishop to the Forces.

(5) Paragraph (4)(a) does not apply to an authority to exercise ministry which takes the form of a licence to preach granted by the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge.

(6) In the case of a Chapel Royal, the references in this Regulation to the dean are references to the Dean of the Chapels Royal.

(7) Where there is a vacancy in the see of an archbishop or diocesan bishop or in the office of the dean of a Royal Peculiar or a registration officer is unable to exercise functions as such, and the functions of registration officer have not already been delegated, the registration officer is the person authorised to exercise functions of a similar nature.

Requirements to provide information: existing or new authority

4.—(1) The registration officer for a clerk in Holy Orders must, within five working days of receiving a request from the Archbishops’ Council to do so, provide the Council with the registration information about that clerk.

(2) Where a clerk in Holy Orders becomes authorised to exercise ministry, the registration officer for the clerk must, within five working days of the clerk becoming so authorised, provide the Archbishops’ Council with the registration information about the clerk.

(3) Where the authority of a clerk in Holy Orders to exercise ministry is renewed, the registration officer for the clerk must, within five working days of the authority being renewed, inform the Archbishops’ Council of the renewal.

(4) Where the authority of a clerk in Holy Orders to exercise ministry is varied with the result that the registration information about the clerk is varied, the registration officer for the clerk must, within five working days of the variation taking effect, inform the Archbishops’ Council of the variation to the registration information.

Requirements to provide information: termination or suspension of authority

5.—(1) Where the authority of a clerk in Holy Orders to exercise ministry is terminated, or ceases for a limited period, in circumstances of a kind mentioned in paragraph (2), the registration officer for the clerk must, within 24 hours of the termination or cessation taking effect, inform the Archbishops’ Council of the termination or cessation but not of the circumstances.

(2) The circumstances referred to in paragraph (1) are circumstances where—

(a) the clerk’s permission to officiate is withdrawn;

- (b) a prohibition for life or limited prohibition is imposed on the clerk, or the clerk is removed from office, under the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003(a);
- (c) a deprivation or inhibition is imposed on the clerk following a finding of guilt for an offence under Part 6 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1963(b);
- (d) the clerk is removed from office under the capability procedures (within the meaning of the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Measure 2009(c));
- (e) the clerk has voluntarily withdrawn from ministry.

(3) Where the authority of a clerk in Holy Orders to exercise ministry is terminated, or ceases for a limited period, in circumstances of a kind other than those mentioned in paragraph (2), the registration officer for the clerk must, within three working days of the termination or cessation taking effect, inform the Archbishops' Council of the termination or cessation and of the circumstances.

(4) Where a clerk in Holy Orders with authority to exercise ministry is suspended from exercising ministry, or a clerk's suspension from doing so is terminated, the registration officer for the clerk must, within 24 hours of the suspension, or the termination of the suspension, taking effect, inform the Archbishops' Council of the suspension or termination but not of the circumstances.

Publication etc. of registration information

6. The Archbishops' Council must publish and make available free of charge (in each case, whether in electronic form or otherwise) the registration information in relation to each clerk in Holy Orders, except the information referred to in regulation 2(1)(b) (contact details).

These Regulations were approved by the General Synod on [] 2020

Jacqui Philips
Clerk to the General Synod

THE COMMON SEAL of the Archbishops' Council was hereunto affixed on [] 2020.



Church House, London SW1P 3AZ.

(a) 2003 No.3.
(b) 1963 No.1.
(c) 2009 No.1.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations are made under section 2 of the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure 2020, which requires the Archbishops' Council to compile and maintain a national register of those who exercise ministry. These Regulations are concerned only with clergy.

Regulation 1 provides that the Regulations come into force on 1st May 2021.

Regulation 2 sets out the information which is required about a clerk in Holy Orders for the purposes of the national register.

Regulation 3 determines who, in the case of each clerk in Holy Orders, is to provide the Archbishops' Council with the required information about that clerk.

Regulation 4 imposes requirements for providing the Archbishops' Council with the required information about clerks already exercising ministry and those subsequently authorised to do so.

Regulation 5 imposes requirements for informing the Archbishops' Council where a clerk's exercise of ministry is terminated or suspended.

Regulation 6 requires the Archbishops' Council to publish and make available the registration information in relation to each clerk in Holy Orders other than personal contact details.