

CLERGY DISCIPLINE MEASURE 2003
PRACTICE DIRECTION

USE OF STANDARD DIRECTIONS IN ALL PROCEEDINGS

Dame Sarah Asplin, President of Tribunals, has issued the following Practice Direction pursuant to section 4(2) of the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003:-

1. This Practice Direction is issued in accordance with the overriding objective to enable formal disciplinary proceedings brought under the Clergy Discipline Measure to be dealt with justly, and in particular, to avoid undue delay and expense. It applies to all first instance proceedings before a bishop's disciplinary tribunal and the Courts of the Vicars-General.

2. In order to facilitate efficient administration the directions at Appendix 'A' may be issued by the Registrar of Tribunals in all cases that are referred for determination to a tribunal or court.

February 2021

The Rt Hon Dame Sarah Asplin DBE
President of the Tribunals

APPENDIX 'A'

IN THE MATTER OF A COMPLAINT UNDER THE CLERGY DISCIPLINE MEASURE 2003
BEFORE THE BISHOP'S DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE DIOCESE OF [NAME]
B E T W E E N

[C]

Complainant

and

[R]

Respondent

ORDER

These directions are issued by the Registrar of Tribunals pursuant to Clergy Discipline Rule 30(1)(b).

Service of documents

(1) In accordance with the direction of the President of Tribunals dated the 17 March 2020 the documents referred to below may be delivered or sent by means of e-mail or PDF/Word document attached to an e-mail.

Statements of case and witness statements

(2) By [*28 days from service of the order*] the Designated officer shall lodge with the Registrar of Tribunals and serve on the Respondent or his legal representative a statement of case limited to 4 pages (font minimum 12 point; 1.5 line spacing) and copies of all witness statements that he wishes to rely upon.

(3) By [*sequentially - 28 days after para (2)*] the Respondent or his legal representative shall lodge with the Registrar of Tribunals and serve on the Designated Officer a statement of case in reply, limited to 4 pages (font minimum 12 point; 1.5 line spacing), and copies of all witness statements that he wishes to rely upon.

(4) No party may rely upon any statement of case or witness statement that is not served in accordance with this order without the permission of the Tribunal.

Time Estimate

(5) The Parties must send to the Registrar of Tribunals an agreed time estimate, or where one cannot be agreed, their own estimate by [*14 days after para (3)*].

Referral to the Chair

(6) The matter will then be referred to the Chair of the Tribunal who may issue further directions.

Permission to apply for variation

(7) The parties have permission to apply for variation of these directions and any application must be made in accordance with Rule 31 and lodged with the Registrar of Tribunals within 14 days of service of this order.

Dated: