

**GENERAL SYNOD**  
**GENERAL SYNOD ELECTIONS 2021: AMENDMENT RESOLUTION**

**Report by the Business Committee**

**Summary**

At the February 2020 group of sessions, the Synod approved the allocation to each diocese of the number of seats for the directly elected proctors in the Lower Houses of the Convocations and for the directly elected diocesan representatives in the House of Laity at the elections that were to have taken place later that year.

Following the allocation of seats, the Central Secretariat was informed by the diocese of Lincoln that the numbers it had stated as being on its electoral rolls as at 31 July 2019 was incorrect and had been over-estimated by 4,618. This meant that the number on Lincoln's electoral rolls used for the allocation for seats in the House of Laity in February 2020 was 23,618 but it should have been 19,000.

The staff have calculated what the allocation of seats would be if based on the correct figure of 19,000 for Lincoln. This would result in a reduction of two seats for Lincoln from the allocation provided in GS 2162. It would also increase the number of seats for Exeter and London by one each. The outcome is that Lincoln should have been allocated three seats in the House of Laity (not five), Exeter should have been allocated five seats (not four), and London should have been allocated twelve seats (not eleven). A revised allocation of seats for the House of Laity is attached in Appendix A.

For reference, the process for allocating seats can be found in Appendix B.

**Recommendations:**

1. It is recommended that the Synod pass the following resolutions:

'That the resolution passed by the Synod as item 13 at the February 2020 group of sessions (General Synod elections 2020: allocation of seats) be amended as follows:

- (a) in paragraph (a), for "2020" substitute "2021";
- (b) in paragraph (b)–
  - (i) for "2020" substitute "2021"; and
  - (ii) for "Appendix B of GS 2162" insert "Appendix A to GS 2203".'

Canon Robert Hammond  
Chair, Business Committee

**House of Laity elections 2021**  
**Number of members to be elected by each diocese**

**Province of Canterbury**

| <b>Diocese</b>           | <b>Number on electoral rolls 2014</b> | <b>Number of elected members 2015</b> | <b>Number on electoral rolls 2019</b> | <b>Number to be elected 2021</b> | <b>Change</b> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Bath & Wells             | 31,028                                | 5                                     | 24,823                                | 5                                |               |
| Birmingham               | 15,143                                | 3                                     | 13,646                                | 3                                |               |
| Bristol                  | 14,291                                | 3                                     | 12,220                                | 3                                |               |
| Canterbury               | 17,337                                | 3                                     | 16,263                                | 3                                |               |
| Chelmsford               | 43,398                                | 7                                     | 39,934                                | 8                                | +1            |
| Chichester               | 45,098                                | 8                                     | 40,169                                | 8                                |               |
| Coventry                 | 15,131                                | 3                                     | 15,310                                | 3                                |               |
| Derby                    | 15,814                                | 3                                     | 12,673                                | 3                                |               |
| Ely                      | 16,774                                | 3                                     | 14,922                                | 3                                |               |
| Europe                   | 10,096                                | 3                                     | 11,400                                | 3                                |               |
| <b>Exeter</b>            | <b>27,029</b>                         | <b>4</b>                              | <b>23,272</b>                         | <b>5</b>                         | <b>+1</b>     |
| Gloucester               | 21,234                                | 4                                     | 20,800                                | 3                                | -1            |
| Guildford                | 26,071                                | 4                                     | 21,791                                | 4                                |               |
| Hereford                 | 15,146                                | 3                                     | 12,606                                | 3                                |               |
| Leicester                | 15,695                                | 3                                     | 15,300                                | 3                                |               |
| Lichfield                | 37,546                                | 6                                     | 37,013                                | 7                                | +1            |
| <b>Lincoln</b>           | <b>22,299</b>                         | <b>4</b>                              | <b>19,000</b>                         | <b>3</b>                         | <b>-1</b>     |
| <b>London</b>            | <b>68,484</b>                         | <b>11</b>                             | <b>59,665</b>                         | <b>12</b>                        | <b>+1</b>     |
| Norwich                  | 16,555                                | 3                                     | 17,033                                | 3                                |               |
| Oxford                   | 51,048                                | 8                                     | 48,385                                | 9                                | +1            |
| Peterborough             | 19,143                                | 3                                     | 17,700                                | 3                                |               |
| Portsmouth               | 14,547                                | 3                                     | 12,273                                | 3                                |               |
| Rochester                | 27,079                                | 5                                     | 21,525                                | 4                                | -1            |
| St Albans                | 32,730                                | 5                                     | 27,070                                | 5                                |               |
| St Edmundsbury & Ipswich | 20,053                                | 3                                     | 17,027                                | 3                                |               |
| Salisbury                | 35,246                                | 6                                     | 30,857                                | 6                                |               |
| Southwark                | 42,304                                | 7                                     | 36,724                                | 7                                |               |
| Truro                    | 13,727                                | 3                                     | 11,041                                | 3                                |               |
| Winchester <sup>1</sup>  | 28,180                                | 5                                     | 22,799                                | 4                                | -1            |
| Worcester                | 14,796                                | 3                                     | 11,914                                | 3                                |               |
|                          | <b>773,022</b>                        | <b>134</b>                            | <b>685,155</b>                        | <b>135</b>                       | <b>+1</b>     |

<sup>1</sup> This figure excludes the 2 lay members elected by the deaneries of Jersey and Guernsey under the provisions of the Channel Islands (Representation) Measure 1931

## Province of York

| <b>Diocese</b>         | <b>Number on electoral rolls 2014</b> | <b>Number of elected members 2015</b> | <b>Number on electoral rolls 2019</b> | <b>Number to be elected 2020</b> | <b>Change</b> |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Blackburn              | 29,025                                | 6                                     | 24,581                                | <b>6</b>                         |               |
| Carlisle               | 17,674                                | 4                                     | 13,676                                | <b>3</b>                         | -1            |
| Chester                | 37,787                                | 8                                     | 30,140                                | <b>8</b>                         |               |
| Durham                 | 18,537                                | 4                                     | 16,494                                | <b>4</b>                         |               |
| Leeds                  | 39,064                                | 9                                     | 32,320                                | <b>9</b>                         |               |
| Liverpool              | 23,131                                | 5                                     | 18,289                                | <b>5</b>                         |               |
| Manchester             | 27,735                                | 6                                     | 21,404                                | <b>6</b>                         |               |
| Newcastle              | 15,240                                | 3                                     | 13,064                                | <b>3</b>                         |               |
| Sheffield              | 15,344                                | 3                                     | 14,769                                | <b>3</b>                         |               |
| Sodor & Man            | 2,209                                 | 1                                     | 2,000                                 | <b>1</b>                         |               |
| Southwell & Nottingham | 19,300                                | 4                                     | 16,136                                | <b>4</b>                         |               |
| York                   | 27,939                                | 6                                     | 24,078                                | <b>6</b>                         |               |
|                        | <b>272,985</b>                        | <b>59</b>                             | <b>226,951</b>                        | <b>58</b>                        | <b>-1</b>     |

## Extract from GS 1484-7Y

**Appendix VII          Divisor Methods**

1. Church Representation Rule 49(4) spells out the procedure for allocating the number of members to be elected by each diocese.
2. In practice, the first step is the allocation to the Diocese of Sodor and Man, which elects a fixed number of members.
3. The next step is the provisional allocation to the other dioceses of the number of members to be elected by each.
4. The provisional allocation to some of the dioceses may be less than the prescribed minimum of three. These dioceses are then “topped up” so as to ensure that each has the minimum allocation of three.
5. As the “topping up” procedure is at the expense of other dioceses, a new provisional allocation to these other dioceses is calculated.
6. The integer part of the figure calculated in paragraph 5 is the new provisional allocation for these dioceses.
7. The total sum of the provisional allocations is always less than the total number to be elected.
8. Church Representation Rule 49(5) says that the final allocation shall be as nearly as possible proportionate to the number of names certified for each diocese, but subject to the minimum of three and the fixed number for one diocese.
9. The natural expectation is that the remaining seats will be allocated to the dioceses with the largest decimal remainder at the end of paragraph 6. Unfortunately, this is not satisfactory and, arguably, does not meet the requirement stated in paragraph 8.
10. The problem is that allocating in accordance with the largest decimal remainders is non-monotonic, that is, an increase in the total number to be elected in a province may result in a decreased representation in one or more dioceses, and vice versa.
11. A divisor method must be used to overcome this problem. There are five divisor methods available, any one of which comply with the “as nearly as possible proportionate” requirement.
12. The Largest Divisor Method tends to favour those dioceses with the larger certified numbers.
13. The Smallest Divisor Method tends to favour those dioceses with the smaller certified numbers, not including those that had to be topped-up.
14. In between come the Harmonic Mean and Geometric Mean. In practice, these rapidly converge on the Arithmetic Mean.
15. All elections, except one, to the General Synod have been based on the Arithmetic Mean Divisor Method. The one exception was the subject of a successful appeal.
16. The Arithmetic Mean is calculated by dividing the number of licensed clergy or church electoral roll numbers in each continuing diocese by  $(n + \frac{1}{2})$ , where n is the integer number calculated in paragraph 6.
17. The Arithmetic Mean numbers are arranged in numerical order, and the remaining places (paragraph 7) are allocated in order.
18. In the Largest Divisor Method, the division is by  $(n + 1)$ . In the Smallest Divisor method, the division is by  $(n)$ .