

GENERAL SYNOD

APRIL GROUP OF SESSIONS 2021

THIRD NOTICE PAPER

ITEM 3: INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Financial statement pursuant to Standing Order 108

1. Financial Statements under Standing Order 108 set out the estimated financial effect of implementing recommendations of reports and taking forward motions if they are passed by the Synod. In most cases figures provided are approximate, recognising the inherent uncertainty in estimating various factors. Members are asked to take this statement into account alongside non-financial factors when considering these items of business.
2. Estimates of the financial implications of any amendments proposed by Members will be provided in a subsequent notice paper or in an oral statement from a member of the Archbishops' Council's Finance Committee who is a General Synod member (usually the Chair).
3. As agreed with the Business Committee in 2016, an item is included in this memorandum if (i) the estimated financial impact (either actual costs or savings or the opportunity cost or saving - e.g. the cost of clergy or staff time) is £20,000 or more or (ii) it is thought a statement on the estimated financial impact of a proposal is thought likely to be helpful to members. These thresholds are applied to the whole of any time-limited project or a period of three years for on-going activities.
4. If the cost of work on any motion, if passed, would fall to the Archbishops' Council, it would need to be met from within the Council's 2021 budget envelope which Synod is being asked to approve at this Group of Sessions, or subsequent budgets. For any work not already scheduled, the relevant Director, in consultation with others, would consider whether other work of similar cost should be dropped or postponed, or if additional, unbudgeted, staff resource could be provided by securing funding from another source or drawing on reserves. Estimates of staff and clergy time are usually an opportunity cost, illustrating the cost of other work that would need to be dropped

or deferred. If it is not possible to drop or defer sufficient other work, there would be an impact on the timescale for delivery of the requested work.

5. All costs are estimated at 2021 levels unless otherwise stated. Costs include relevant salaries, employers' national insurance and pension contributions.

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6. It is expected that the work that would result from part (c) of the motion would be carried out as part of the dissemination phase of the Freedom of Religion and Belief Leadership Network (FoRBLN) project. Over the longer term work in this area will be limited to that which can be accomplished by the existing staff resource of less than one full time equivalent post.

Canon John Spence
Chair, Archbishops' Council Finance Committee

April 2021