

GENERAL SYNOD
GENERAL SYNOD ELECTIONS 2021: SEAT ALLOCATION
Report by the Business Committee

Background

The General Synod was presented with a paper at the February 2020 group of sessions (GS 2162) proposing the allocation of seats for the directly elected diocesan representatives to the Lower Houses of the Convocations and to the House of Laity for the quinquennium 2020-2025. The allocations set out in that paper were approved by Synod in February 2020.

Due to Covid restrictions the term of office for Synod members was extended and the elections to General Synod were deferred by a year under provision in the Coronavirus Act 2020. This has meant the elections due to take place over the summer of 2020, will now take place over the summer of 2021.

During this extension, the Synod office was approached by the Diocese of Lincoln to say that the electoral roll numbers they had provided for the purposes of the allocation of seats in February 2020 were incorrect. This had a material impact of the allocation of seats for the House of Laity in the Province of Canterbury, and an amendment resolution was brought to the April 2021 group of sessions to correct this.

I am sorry to have to inform Synod that further interrogation of the allocation of seats has highlighted an error in the allocation of seats. I am very sorry about this error, and both the Secretary General and the head of Research and Statistics at Church House have offered me their apologies for this mistake.

Briefly, the error was in the application of the method by which fractions of seats are dealt with in the division of the total number of seats among the dioceses. The error involved those dioceses who had been provisionally allocated the minimum 3 seats being incorrectly excluded from a subsequent part of the process that allocates the balance of seats after minimum allocation requirements are met.

The divisor method has now been applied again, correctly, ensuring that the dioceses who were provisionally allocated the minimum number of 3 seats were not excluded when it came to allocating the balance of the seats. The result is that a small number of dioceses who had previously been allocated 3 seats should now be allocated 4 seats, and that has therefore impacted some other dioceses with a larger seat allocation.

The Head of the Research and Statistics team has checked the process, along with another senior researcher. She has warranted that these figures are now correct. However, this error has led to a total of fourteen changes affecting eleven dioceses. These dioceses will receive a revised set of allocations from that approved in February 2020 and April 2021.

Therefore the Business Committee proposes that the Synod's previous resolution allocating seats in February 2020 (and as amended in April 2021) be replaced with a fresh resolution. This paper accordingly provides a corrected allocation of seats for all dioceses for the next General Synod. A summary of the proposed allocation of places and any change from the allocation approved in February 2020 is set out for the House of Clergy at Appendix A and for the House of Laity at Appendix B. The overall position is set out in Appendix C.

Resolution of the Synod

1. The Business Committee is asking the General Synod to pass a motion amending the resolution of February 2020 (as amended in April 2021) which allocates seats to dioceses for directly elected diocesan representatives to the Lower Houses of the Convocations and to the House of Laity at the 2021 elections.

2. The legal requirements underlying the resolution allocating seats are contained in paragraph 2 of Canon H 2 (in the case of the Lower Houses of the Convocations) and Rule 49 of the Church Representation Rules (in the case of the House of Laity).

Allocation of places

3. The method used to make the calculations set out in the appendices first makes provision for the Diocese of Sodor and Man, which has a fixed allocation of one seat in both the House of Clergy and the House of Laity and then for those dioceses which might not otherwise be entitled to the minimum number of seats for directly elected diocesan proctors and directly elected lay members (3 in both cases). Finally, it allocates the remaining seats, calculated to 7 decimal places, using the arithmetic mean divisor method adopted by the Business Committee. Further details can be seen in Appendix D.

Directly elected diocesan proctors

4. Canon H 2 sets out the requirements for elections to the Lower Houses of the Convocations of Canterbury and York. The Canon provides for a maximum number of proctors to be specially and directly elected for each Province: 133 in the case of the Province of Canterbury; and 58 in the case of the Province of York. For the purposes of these calculations, there needs to be subtracted from those totals the *specially* elected proctors, who are: the Deans (Canterbury – 3; York – 2); and the Dean of Jersey *or* the Dean of Guernsey (Canterbury – 1). This leaves maximum totals of 129 *directly* elected proctors in the Province of Canterbury and 56 in York to be divided amongst the dioceses of each Province (in effect the same 70/30 split as pertains by default to the House of Laity under Rule 49(4) of the Church Representation Rules – see below).
5. Canon H 2.2(b) provides that no diocese should have fewer than 3 directly elected proctors. The only exception to this is the Diocese of Sodor and Man, which has only 1 directly elected proctor.
6. For the purposes of these calculations we used the figures provided by dioceses to prepare GS 2162 for the February 2020 group of sessions.
7. The Synod is required under Canon H 2 to determine the proportion that the number of proctors to be elected for each diocese bears to the number of electors in the dioceses. On the basis that the total number of clergy to be elected by each Province is as set out in paragraph 4, **it is proposed** that the Synod determine the proportions as 129:8,885 in the case of the Province of Canterbury. The calculation for the Province of York excludes the 27 electors in the Diocese of Sodor and Man since that has a fixed allocation of 1 place and is, therefore, 55:2,886.
8. Six dioceses will have a different number of proctors from the number allocated in the Synod's resolution of February 2020. The differences are:
 - Chichester – minus 1 seat, a total of 5 seats
 - Lincoln – additional seat, a total of 4 seats
 - London – minus 1 seat, a total of 11 seats
 - Norwich – 1 additional seat, a total of 4 seats
 - Oxford – minus 1 seat, a total of 10 seats
 - Rochester – 1 additional seat, a total of 4 seats
9. **Appendix A** shows the number of directly elected diocesan proctors to be elected by each of the dioceses in each Province in 2021 after the correct application of the divisor method.

Directly elected diocesan lay representatives

10. Rule 49 of the Church Representation Rules sets out the requirements in respect of elections to the House of Laity. In addition, Rule 49(5)(b) now requires the number of names on the

mission initiative rolls for a diocese to be included in the calculations. Nine dioceses provided the numbers on their mission initiative rolls. These were Birmingham, Coventry, Exeter, Guildford, Leeds, London, Sheffield, Truro and York.

11. Rule 49(1) sets the maximum numbers for directly and specially elected members of the House of Laity at 195. Two *specially* elected members need to be deducted from the total for the Province of Canterbury (i.e. those to be elected from the Channel Islands under the provisions of the Channel Islands (Representation) Measure 1931).
12. Rule 49(4) provides that the proportion of the directly elected members is, as nearly as possible, to be 70 to 30 between the Province of Canterbury and the Province of York; or, if the Synod resolves otherwise, in some other proportion specified by that resolution.
13. Rule 49(5) requires that the number of directly elected members to be elected for each diocese be as nearly as possible proportionate to the total of (a) the number of names on the electoral rolls in that diocese and (b) the number of names on the mission initiative rolls for mission initiatives in that diocese.
14. If the proportion of the directly elected members continues, as nearly as possible, to be divided 70 to 30 between the Province of Canterbury and the Province of York (with the maximum total number of directly elected lay members permitted within the provisions of Rule 49 (i.e. 193) being elected) the apportionment would be 135 directly elected members for the Province of Canterbury and 58 for the Province of York.
15. Rule 49(2) provides that no diocese shall have fewer than 3 directly elected members. The only exception to this provision is the Diocese of Sodor and Man, which has a fixed allocation of 1 place.
16. For the purposes of these calculations, we have used the numbers received by dioceses for the preparation of GS 2162 and GS 2203 (i.e. the papers provided in February 2020 and April 2021).
17. Eight dioceses will have a different number of elected members of the House of Laity from the number allocated in the Synod's resolution of February 2020 (as amended in April 2021). The differences are:
Province of Canterbury:
 - Exeter – minus 1 seat, a total of 4 seats
 - Gloucester – 1 additional seat, a total of 4 seats
 - Lincoln – 1 additional seat, a total of 4 seats
 - London – minus 1 seat, a total of 11 seatsProvince of York:
 - Carlisle – 1 additional seat, a total of 4 seats
 - Leeds – minus 1 seat, a total of 8 seats
 - Manchester – minus 1 seat, a total of 5 seats
 - Sheffield – 1 additional seat, a total of 4 seats
18. **Appendix B** shows the number of directly elected lay members that would be elected by the dioceses in each Province in 2021 based on a 70:30 apportionment between the Provinces.
19. The present and proposed future representation of each diocese in both the House of Clergy and the House of Laity is shown in **Appendix C**.

Recommendations

20. It is recommended that the Synod pass the following motion.

'That the resolution passed by the Synod as item 13 at the February 2020 group of sessions (General Synod elections 2020: allocation of seats) and amended by item 9 at the April 2021 group

of sessions (General Synod Elections 2020: allocation of seats amendment resolution) be amended by substituting for it the following:

“1. The total number of proctors in Convocation to be directly elected from the dioceses in each Province in 2021 is 129 for the Province of Canterbury and 56 for the Province of York with the proportion of directly elected proctors to the number of qualified electors in the dioceses being determined as 129 : 8,885 in the case of the Province of Canterbury and 55 : 2,886 in the case of the Province of York, the numbers to be elected for each diocese being those set out at Appendix A of GS 2229.

2. The total number of members of the House of Laity to be directly elected in 2021 is 193, apportioned between the Provinces in the proportion that is as close as possible to 70 to 30, so that 135 members are to be elected in the Province of Canterbury and 58 members elected in the Province of York, the numbers to be elected for each diocese being those set out at Appendix B of GS 2229.”’

Canon Robert Hammond
Chair, Business Committee

Appendix A					
Proctorial elections 2021					
Number of proctors to be elected for each diocese					
Province of Canterbury¹					
Diocese	Number of electors 2014	Number of elected proctors 2015	Number of electors 2019	Number of proctors to be elected 2021	Change from previous allocation
Bath & Wells	336	4	299	4	
Birmingham	212	3	141	3	
Bristol	220	3	206	3	
Canterbury	217	3	175	3	
Chelmsford	518	7	481	7	
Chichester	407	5	405	5	-1
Coventry	190	3	187	3	
Derby	254	3	219	3	
Ely	279	4	303	4	
Europe	144	3	144	3	
Exeter	326	4	332	5	
Gloucester	231	3	205	3	
Guildford	324	4	305	4	
Hereford	171	3	166	3	
Leicester	193	3	185	3	
Lichfield	428	6	434	6	
Lincoln	276	4	264	4	+1
London	785	11	839	11	-1
Norwich	287	4	263	4	+1
Oxford	670	9	769	10	-1
Peterborough	219	3	193	3	
Portsmouth	167	3	163	3	
Rochester	266	4	263	4	+1
St Albans	366	5	350	5	
St Eds & Ips	200	3	221	3	
Salisbury	372	5	321	4	
Southwark	538	7	531	7	
Truro	148	3	135	3	
Winchester	291	4	243	3	
Worcester	165	3	143	3	
	9,200	129	8,885	129	

¹ The figure in this table excludes the Dean of Jersey or Guernsey (as the case may be), who is not elected.

Province of York

Diocese	Number of electors 2014	Number of elected proctors 2015	Number of electors 2019	Number of proctors to be elected 2021	Change from previous allocation
Blackburn	270	5	249	5	
Carlisle	180	3	128	3	
Chester	353	6	325	6	
Durham	252	5	247	5	
Leeds	563	10	456	9	
Liverpool	289	5	267	5	
Manchester	365	7	381	7	
Newcastle	186	3	155	3	
Sheffield	190	3	186	3	
Sodor & Man	24	1	27	1	
Southwell & Nottingham	194	3	167	3	
York	300	5	325	6	
	3,166	56	2,913	56	

House of Laity elections 2021
Number of members to be elected by each diocese
Province of Canterbury²

Diocese	Number on electoral rolls 2014	Number of elected members 2015	Number on electoral rolls 2019	Number to be elected 2021	Change from previous allocation
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	
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	
Exeter	27,029	4	23,272	4	-1
Gloucester	21,234	4	20,800	4	+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	
Lincoln	22,299	4	19,000	4	+1
London	68,484	11	59,665	11	-1
Norwich	16,555	3	17,033	3	
Oxford	51,048	8	48,385	9	
Peterborough	19,143	3	17,700	3	
Portsmouth	14,547	3	12,273	3	
Rochester	27,079	5	21,525	4	
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	28,180	5	22,799	4	
Worcester	14,796	3	11,914	3	
	773,022	134	685,155	135	

² The figure in this table 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

Diocese	Number on electoral rolls 2014	Number of elected members 2015	Number on electoral rolls 2019	Number to be elected 2021	Change from previous allocation
Blackburn	29,025	6	24,581	6	
Carlisle	17,674	4	13,676	4	+1
Chester	37,787	8	30,140	8	
Durham	18,537	4	16,494	4	
Leeds	39,064	9	32,320	8	-1
Liverpool	23,131	5	18,289	5	
Manchester	27,735	6	21,404	5	-1
Newcastle	15,240	3	13,064	3	
Sheffield	15,344	3	14,769	4	+1
Sodor & Man	2,209	1	2,000	1	
Southwell & Nottingham	19,300	4	16,136	4	
York	27,939	6	24,078	6	
	272,985	59	226,951	58	

Elected membership of the General Synod

Province of Canterbury³

Diocese	Elected Proctors		Elected Laity		Total Elected		Change from previous allocation
	2015	2021	2015	2021	2015	2021	
Bath & Wells	4	4	5	5	9	9	
Birmingham	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Bristol	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Canterbury	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Chelmsford	7	7	7	8	14	15	
Chichester	5	5	8	8	13	13	-1
Coventry	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Derby	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Ely	4	4	3	3	7	7	
Europe	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Exeter	4	5	4	4	8	9	-1
Gloucester	3	3	4	4	7	7	+1
Guildford	4	4	4	4	8	8	
Hereford	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Leicester	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Lichfield	6	6	6	7	12	13	
Lincoln	4	4	4	4	8	8	+2
London	11	11	11	11	22	22	-2
Norwich	4	4	3	3	7	7	+1
Oxford	9	10	8	9	17	19	-1
Peterborough	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Portsmouth	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Rochester	4	4	5	4	9	8	+1
St Albans	5	5	5	5	10	10	
St Eds & Ips	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Salisbury	5	4	6	6	11	10	
Southwark	7	7	7	7	14	14	
Truro	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Winchester	4	3	5	4	9	7	
Worcester	3	3	3	3	6	6	
	129	129	134	135	263	264	

³ The figures exclude the 2 lay members elected by the deaneries of Jersey and Guernsey under the provisions of the Channel Islands (Representation) Measure and the appropriate Dean, who is not elected.

Province of York

Diocese	Elected Proctors		Elected Laity		Total Elected		Change from previous allocation
	2015	2021	2015	2021	2015	2021	
Blackburn	5	5	6	6	11	11	
Carlisle	3	3	4	4	7	7	+1
Chester	6	6	8	8	14	14	
Durham	5	5	4	4	9	9	
Leeds	10	9	9	8	19	17	-1
Liverpool	5	5	5	5	10	10	
Manchester	7	7	6	5	13	12	-1
Newcastle	3	3	3	3	6	6	
Sheffield	3	3	3	4	6	7	+1
Sodor & Man	1	1	1	1	2	2	
Southwell & Nottingham	3	3	4	4	7	7	
York	5	6	6	6	11	12	
	56	56	59	58	115	114	

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) .