

**GENERAL SYNOD****Appointment of Archbishops' Council auditors****Summary**

Following a competitive tendering process the Archbishops' Council wishes to appoint Crowe UK LLP as its external auditors. The Synod will be invited to approve this appointment.

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1. Earlier this year the Archbishops' Council's Audit Committee decided to retender the Archbishops' Council's external audit appointment. BDO have been the Council's external auditors since 2008 having been reappointed in 2013 and 2018. Given their length of service and an increasing trend in the industry to rotate audit appointments, BDO decided not to submit a response to the invitation to tender.
2. Five firms in addition to BDO were invited to tender and four firms responded. Three firms were shortlisted to give presentations to the Council's Audit Committee: Crowe UK, Buzzacott and haysmacintyre. The process was supported by Joanna Woolcock (Director of Finance), Stephanie Harrison (Director of Risk and Assurance) and David White (Deputy Director of Finance).
3. The three shortlisted firms all performed strongly in their presentations and were extremely keen to work with the Council. Key points considered in the selection were demonstrating a strong understanding of the National Church Institutions (NCIs) in general and the Council in particular, the key risks faced and how well the Committee and staff felt they could work with the proposed teams.
4. On balance the Council agreed with the Audit Committee's recommendation to appoint Crowe UK. They noted that this appointment offered a unique opportunity to bring greater efficiency and synergy to the audit processes across the NCIs, having been appointed as auditors for the Pensions Board and the National Society within the past two years. It was also noted that, subject to approval of the relevant Boards, it was likely Crowe UK would be appointed to replace BDO as auditors for Church of England Central Services, Church of England Central Services Trading Limited and the Overseas Bishops Fund.
5. Crowe UK are a top ten audit firm in the UK and hold the number one position for charity audits. Non-profit organisations account for over 25% of their business and they are well known as specialists within the Charity sector.
6. Under the National Institutions Measure 1998 (clause 3(2)), the Council's accounts have to be audited "by such person as may be appointed by the Council with the approval of the General Synod". The General Synod is invited to approve the appointment of Crowe UK LLP as the Archbishops' Council's external auditors for a period of up to five years.

Maureen Cole, Chair, Archbishops' Council Audit Committee

June 2021