

**DRAFT SCHEME
AMENDING THE DIOCESE IN EUROPE CONSTITUTION 1995**

Approved by the General Synod on the [...]

WHEREAS:

1. Paragraph 48 of the Diocese in Europe Constitution 1995 ('the Constitution') provides that amendments to the Constitution are to be embodied in a draft scheme which, if approved by not less than two-thirds of the Diocesan Synod of the Diocese in Europe present and voting, shall be laid by the diocesan Bishop before the General Synod.
2. The Constitution provides that no amendment to paragraphs 1 to 6, 22, 40, 41 or 48 of the Constitution shall be made unless embodied in a draft scheme and an affirmative resolution of the General Synod obtained, but none of the proposed amendments relates to any such paragraph.
3. On the 7th day of June 2023 the Diocesan Synod of the Diocese in Europe approved by not less than two-thirds of those present and voting the amendments to the Constitution to be made by the draft scheme set out in the Schedule hereto ('the Scheme').

I NOW THEREFORE lay the Scheme before the General Synod for approval.

Dated this 12th day of June 2023

† Robert Gibraltar

Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe

THE SCHEDULE

Scheme amending the Diocese in Europe Constitution 1995

The Constitution of the Diocese shall be amended as follows –

- (a) in sub-paragraph 29(a), for “30th April” there shall be substituted “31st May”
- (b) in sub-paragraph 31(b)(i), for “immediately on conclusion of the annual meeting” there shall be substituted “upon being admitted to office by the bishop or the bishop’s duly appointed substitute in accordance with the Churchwardens Measure 2001”
- (c) after paragraph 50 there shall be inserted the following new paragraph 50A

“Remote meetings

- 50A** (a) (i) This paragraph applies for the purposes of this Constitution and for the purposes of any provision made by or under any Measure of the General Synod or other instrument (whenever passed or made) about meetings of a body constituted by or under this Constitution or the Church Representation Rules or chaplaincy annual meetings, special chaplaincy church meetings and extraordinary chaplaincy church meetings.
- (ii) A reference to a meeting includes a reference to a meeting which persons may attend, speak at, vote in, or otherwise participate in without any, or without all, of the persons being together in the same place.
 - (iii) A reference to a place where a meeting is held, or is to be held, includes a reference to more than one place, including electronic, digital or virtual locations, web addresses or conference call telephone numbers.
 - (iv) A person is to be regarded as present at a meeting at any given time if the person is at that time able to hear and be heard by, and where practicable to see and be seen by, the other persons present.
 - (v) A reference to being present at a meeting includes a reference to being present by electronic means, including by telephone conference, video conference, live webcast or live interactive streaming.
 - (vi) Relevant procedural rules made under any provision of this Constitution or the Church Representation Rules are to be taken to provide, in so far as they do not already, for participation in meetings without any, or without all, of the persons being together in the same place.

(b) In any form of notice of a meeting prescribed under this Constitution or under the Church Representation Rules, details of how to access the meeting shall be included where it is to be a remote meeting.

(c) The Bishop's Council may make provision for the conduct of a remote meeting supplemental to relevant procedural rules and in doing so shall have regard to any provision made by the General Synod or the Archbishops' Council for similar purposes.

(d) Nothing in this paragraph authorises any mode or manner of meeting which is not permitted under the law of the relevant jurisdiction.

(e) For the purposes of the admission to office of any person chosen for the office of churchwarden, the requirement of section 6 of the Churchwardens Measure 2001 that such a person shall appear before the bishop or the bishop's duly appointed substitute ("the substitute"), and that in the presence of the bishop or the substitute must make and subscribe the prescribed declarations, shall be satisfied where the person

(i) makes the declaration by electronic means such that both the person and the bishop or the substitute may hear and be heard, and where practicable see and be seen, and also

(ii) submits a copy of the signed declaration to such person and in such manner as the bishop or the substitute shall direct.