

CROWN NOMINATIONS COMMISSION

STANDING ORDERS OF GENERAL SYNOD 136-141, UPDATED JULY 2022

CROWN NOMINATIONS COMMISSION

136. Crown Nominations Commission: functions

- (1) There is to continue to be a Crown Nominations Commission of the Synod.
- (2) The Commission must consider any vacancy in a diocesan bishopric, or in the suffragan bishopric of Dover (see further SO 137(6)), and candidates for appointment to fill the vacancy.
- (3) The Commission must agree upon the name of one candidate for submission to the Prime Minister.
- (3A) The Commission may also agree upon the name of a second candidate for submission to the Prime Minister, but with that candidate's name to be kept in reserve for the contingency that it becomes impossible to appoint the candidate whose name was agreed upon under paragraph (3).
- (4) The Commission must report to the Synod from time to time as it deems expedient on matters of general concern within its area of responsibility; and SO 105 applies in relation to a report under this paragraph.

137. Crown Nominations Commission: membership

- (1) The voting members of the Crown Nominations Commission are—
 - (a) the Presidents ex officio,
 - (b) three members elected by and from the House of Clergy,
 - (c) three members elected by and from the House of Laity,
 - (d) six members elected by and from the Vacancy in See Committee of the diocese in which there is a vacancy in the diocesan bishopric or, in the case of a vacancy in the Archbishopric of Canterbury, three members elected by and from the Vacancy in See Committee of the diocese of Canterbury,
 - (e) if the archiepiscopal see in the Province in which the diocese in which there is a vacancy in the diocesan bishopric is situated is itself vacant, the senior bishop of that Province able and willing to act as a member of the Commission, and
 - (f) for its considerations on a vacancy in either Archbishopric, the persons who are voting members by virtue of SO 139(1), (2)(a) and (3).
- (2) The non-voting members of the Commission are—
 - (a) the Prime Minister's Secretary for Appointments ex officio,
 - (b) the Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments ex officio, and
 - (c) for its considerations on a vacancy in the Archbishopric of Canterbury, the person who is a non-voting member of the Commission by virtue of SO 139(2)(b).
- (3) The six members to be elected from the House of Clergy and the six members to be elected from the House of Laity are to be elected as six pairs, with three pairs from the House of Clergy and three pairs from the House of Laity.
- (3A) Where there is a vacancy in a diocesan bishopric or in either Archbishopric, only one member of each pair referred to in paragraph (3) may serve as a member of the Commission on its considerations of that vacancy; and the member to serve as such is—
 - (a) whoever the members of each pair agree between themselves, or

- (b) (b) in the absence of agreement under sub-paragraph (a), whoever is chosen by a lot drawn by the Secretary of the Commission.

(3B) But if it is impossible for either member of a particular pair to serve as mentioned in paragraph (3A), the Chair of the Commission, having consulted the other two pairs from the same House as that pair, must nominate a member of one of those other pairs to serve instead of either member of that pair.

(3C) And if it is impossible for a member of one of those other pairs to serve instead of either member of that pair, the Chair of the House concerned must nominate another member of that House to do so.

(3D) A member of the Commission under paragraph (1)(b) or (c) who represents a diocese in the House of Clergy or House of Laity is disqualified from serving as a member of the Commission on its considerations of a vacancy in the bishopric of that diocese.

(3E) A member of the Commission under paragraph (1)(b) who was elected to the House of Clergy by virtue of paragraph 1(a) of Canon H2 (deans) is disqualified from serving as a member of the Commission on its considerations of a vacancy in a diocesan bishopric if the cathedral of which the member is the dean is a cathedral of the diocese.

(3F) A member of the Commission under paragraph (1)(b) who represents the electoral area established under paragraph 3 of Canon H2 (universities and theological education institutions) is disqualified from serving as a member of the Commission on its considerations of a vacancy in a diocesan bishopric if—

- (a) the university or theological education institution by which the person is employed is situated in that diocese, or
- (b) in the case of a person who is the head or a fellow of a college of a university, the university is situated in that diocese.

(3G) The reference in paragraph (3F) to the diocese in which a university or theological education institution is situated is— a reference—

- (a) in the case of the University of London, to the diocese in which the main site of the college at which the member is employed or of which he or she is the head or a fellow is situated;
- (b) in the case of any other university or theological education institution situated in more than one diocese, to the diocese in which the main site of the university or institution is situated.

(4) The Commission may not—

- (a) co-opt additional members (subject to paragraphs (4A) and (4B)), or
- (b) except as provided in SO 138(8), invite the attendance of persons other than its members.

(4A) If the Commission considers that the members under paragraph (1)(d), when taken together, are not representative of the diocese as a whole, it may, with a view to achieving such representation, co-opt one additional member; but a person is not eligible for co-option under this paragraph unless the person is eligible for election to one of the Houses of the Synod.

(4B) Before making a co-option under paragraph (4A), the Commission must take into account such information about the diocese and the vacancy as has been provided to it—

- (a) by the Vacancy in See Committee of the diocese, and
- (b) by the Prime Minister's Secretary for Appointments and the Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments acting jointly.

(5) If one of the Presidents is unable to be present at a meeting of the Commission, that President may nominate a member of the House of Bishops from that President's Province as deputy with full voting rights.

(6) For the purposes of this Standing Order and the Vacancy in See Committees Regulation 1993 (as amended from time to time), the suffragan bishopric of Dover is to be treated as being a diocesan bishopric and, in the application of this Standing Order and that Regulation to that suffragan bishopric, a reference to the diocese is, where the context requires, to be read as a reference to the diocese of Canterbury.

137A Crown Nominations Commission: nomination of members

(1) It is for the Business Committee to decide in any given case whether or not nominations for candidates for an election for the purposes of SO 137(1)(b) or (c) are to be conducted by using an electronic system; and the Business Committee must give instructions to the Clerk accordingly. (2) The Clerk must circulate to each member of the House of Clergy and to each member of the House of Laity an invitation to nominate candidates for an election for the purposes of SO 137(1)(b) and (c). (3) A nomination is valid only if— (a) it is for a pair of candidates, each of whom is a member of the House of Clergy or each of whom is a member of the House of Laity, (b) it is supported by a proposer and seconder, each of whom must be a member of the House of Clergy or the House of Laity (but need not be a member of the House to which the person being proposed and seconded belongs), and (c) each of the two persons being nominated confirms his or her willingness to stand as part of that pair. (4) The instructions from the Business Committee referred to in paragraph (1) must include instructions on— (a) how support for the purposes of paragraph (3)(b) is to be evidenced; (b) how confirmation for the purposes of paragraph (3)(c) is to be given; (c) the duration of the period within which a nomination must be made or how the duration of that period is to be determined. (5) A nomination must, in the case of each candidate, contain the year of the candidate's birth. (6) The Clerk must— (a) as soon as each nomination is received, determine whether it is valid, and (b) without delay, inform each candidate and the proposer and seconder whether the nomination is valid. (7) If the Clerk rules that a nomination is not valid, the Clerk must give each candidate and the proposer and seconder the reasons for the ruling when informing each of them of it under paragraph (6)(b). (8) A pair of persons are not to be included as candidates for the election if the Clerk has not received a valid nomination for that pair before the end of the period for nominations.

137B. Crown Nominations Commission: election of members

(1) It is for the Business Committee to decide in any given case whether or not voting for the purposes of SO 137(1)(b) or (c) is to be conducted by using an electronic system; and the Business Committee must give instructions to the Clerk accordingly. (2) The election of members of the House of Clergy under SO 137(1)(b) and of members of the House of Laity under SO 137(1)(c) is to take place as a single election held at a group of sessions. (3) The persons entitled to vote in an election under this Standing Order are the members of the House of Clergy and the members of the House of Laity who are present at the group of sessions at the time when the election is held; and for this purpose those persons constitute a single electorate. (4) A member who because of illness or disability is unable to be physically present at the group of sessions at the time when the election is held is nonetheless entitled for the purposes of paragraph (3) to vote in the election; and the Business Committee

must make arrangements for enabling the member to cast a vote for those purposes. (5) An election under this Standing Order is to be conducted by the method of the single transferable vote in accordance with the election rules. (6) The Clerk must cause the votes to be counted and must enable each candidate (or a person nominated by the candidate) to be present at the count. (7) The Clerk must declare the result at the group of sessions; and a full return of the result and the result sheet must be given to the candidates in accordance with the election rules.

138. Crown Nominations Commission: Chair

- (1) The Archbishop of Canterbury is the Chair of the Crown Nominations Commission; and the Archbishop of York is its Vice-Chair.
- (2) The Archbishop of Canterbury presides at meetings of the Commission when an appointment in the Province of Canterbury is being considered, and the Archbishop of York presides at meetings of the Commission when an appointment in the Province of York is being considered; but this is subject to the following provisions of this Standing Order.
- (3) The Archbishop required to preside at a meeting by paragraph (2) may invite the other Archbishop to preside instead for all or part of that meeting.
- (4) In the absence of the Archbishop required to preside by paragraph (2), the other Archbishop must preside.
- (5) In the absence of both Archbishops, the Archbishop required to preside by paragraph (2) or, in the event of that Archbishop's incapacity, the other Archbishop must nominate one of the members of the Commission elected under SO 137(1)(b) or (c) (members from House of Clergy and members from House of Laity) to preside.
- (6) For the Commission's considerations on a vacancy in the Archbishopric of Canterbury, the person presiding at meetings of the Commission must be an actual communicant lay member of the Church of England appointed by the Prime Minister after consultation with such persons or bodies as the Prime Minister thinks fit.
- (7) For the Commission's considerations on a vacancy in the Archbishopric of York, the person presiding at meetings of the Commission must be an actual communicant lay member of the Church of England resident in the Province of York and appointed by the Prime Minister after consultation with such persons or bodies as the Prime Minister thinks fit.
- (8) Where the person appointed under paragraph (6) or (7) has not previously served as a member of the Commission, that person is to be invited to attend, as an observer, such meetings (if any) of the Commission to consider another episcopal vacancy as are to take place before the meeting at which that person is to preside.

139. Crown Nominations Commission: archiepiscopal vacancy

- (1) For the Crown Nominations Commission's considerations on a vacancy in either Archbishopric, the voting members of the Commission also include—
 - (a) one person in episcopal orders elected by the House of Bishops, or
 - (b) if the continuing Archbishop chooses not to attend the Commission's meetings on those considerations, two persons in episcopal orders elected by the House of Bishops.
- (1A) The person elected under paragraph (1)(a) must—
 - (a) in the case of a vacancy in the Archbishopric of Canterbury, be a bishop whose see is in the Province of Canterbury or who has retired and is resident in that

Province, or

- (b) in the case of a vacancy in the Archbishopric of York, be a bishop whose see is in the Province of York or who has retired and is resident in that Province.

(2) For the Commission's considerations on a vacancy in the Archbishopric of Canterbury—

- (a) the voting members of the Commission also include—
 - (i) the person appointed under SO 138(6), and
 - (ii) a member of the Primates Meeting of the Anglican Communion elected by the Joint Standing Committee of the Primates Meeting of the Anglican Communion and the Anglican Consultative Council, and
- (b) the non-voting members of the Commission also include the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, if the Secretary General has accepted the invitation to serve as such.

(3) For the Commission's considerations on a vacancy in the Archbishopric of York, the voting members of the Commission also include the person appointed under SO 138(7).

(4) An Archbishop who has tendered a resignation may not attend meetings of the Commission on its considerations on the vacancy of the Archbishopric.

140. Crown Nominations Commission: duration of membership

(1) A member of the Crown Nominations Commission elected by the House of Clergy or the House of Laity holds office for a fixed term of five years; but that is subject to the following provisions of this Standing Order.

(2) A member elected by the House of Clergy or the House of Laity to fill a casual vacancy holds office for the unexpired portion of the term of office of the member who has been replaced.

(3) A member elected by the House of Clergy or the House of Laity—

- (a) is eligible for re-election, but
- (b) may not serve for more than two consecutive five-year terms or, if elected to fill a casual vacancy, part of two such terms.

(4) A person who has ceased to be eligible for election as a member of the House of Clergy or the House of Laity may again be nominated for election after an interval of five years.

(5) A person who, by virtue of paragraph (3)(b), is ineligible to be a member of the Commission elected by the House of Clergy or the House of Laity may nonetheless serve as a diocesan member of the Commission under SO 137(1)(d) or be nominated as a deputy under paragraph (9) below.

(6) A vacancy in the Commission occurs, subject to Article 3(4) of the Constitution—

- (a) on the removal of a member elected by the House of Clergy or the House of Laity from one House to another, or
- (b) on a member ceasing by resignation or otherwise to be a member of the Synod.

(7) A vacancy arising under paragraph (6) is to be filled in accordance with SO 134.

(8) Where the term of office of the members elected by the House of Clergy or the House of Laity expires, those members nonetheless continue to act as members of the Commission instead of the new members in order to complete the consideration of any vacancy on which the Commission has begun work.

(9) Where a member elected by the House of Clergy or the House of Laity is unable to be present for the consideration of a particular vacancy, or is disqualified from serving as a

member under SO 137(3A), (3B) or (3C), the Chair of that House must nominate a member of that House as deputy for that member at meetings of the Commission for the consideration of that vacancy.

(10) Where a member elected by the House of Clergy or the House of Laity fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from his or her last attendance to attend meetings of the Commission—

- (a) the member is deemed to have offered his or her resignation to the Chair of that House, and
- (b) the Chair may accept the resignation and order a by-election.

(11) The members elected by the Vacancy in See Committee of a diocese—

- (a) hold office as members of the Commission until such time as an appointment is announced to the vacant see of their diocese, and
- (b) attend only such meetings of the Commission as, in the opinion of the person presiding at the meeting, are concerned with that vacancy.

141. Crown Nominations Commission: business and procedure

(1) The Crown Nominations Commission may, subject to this Standing Order, regulate its own business and procedure.

(2) The Secretary of the Commission is the Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments.

(3) The Secretary of the Commission must communicate to the Secretary General all details of its business and procedure and notice of each of its meetings.

(4) The Secretary of the Commission must convene meetings subject to such directions as the Commission may give.

(5) The Commission must not proceed to a decision to select a name for submission to the Prime Minister unless the person presiding at the meeting is satisfied that, in holding its discussions, the Commission has paid due regard—

- (a) to the views of the diocesan members, and
- (b) to the requirements of the mission of the Church of England as a whole.

(6) A name may not be submitted to the Prime Minister unless it has received the support of at least two-thirds of the total number of the voting members of the Commission, without discrimination in respect of Orders, in a secret ballot.

(6A) Where it becomes impossible to appoint the candidate whose name was agreed upon under SO 136(3) and the Commission has agreed upon the name of a second candidate under SO 136(3A), the name of that second candidate automatically becomes the name selected for submission to the Prime Minister, unless it has also become impossible to appoint that second candidate.

(7) [Repealed on 10th July 2019].

(8) [Repealed on 10th July 2019].

(9) [Repealed on 10th July 2019].

(10) The name selected is to be submitted on the Commission's behalf to the Prime Minister—

- (a) by the appropriate Archbishop, or
- (b) in the case of an appointment to the Archbishopric of Canterbury, by the person presiding under SO 138(6).