

GENERAL SYNOD

FEBRUARY GROUP OF SESSIONS 2025

ELEVENTH NOTICE PAPER

ITEM 27: PROPOSED STANDING ORDERS RELATING TO THE CROWN NOMINATIONS COMMISSION: ADDENDUM

1. Paragraph 26 of the fifth notice paper stated that the average cost per day per interpreter is estimated at between £500 and £700. This assumed a normal working day. There could be additional travel, subsistence and accommodation costs.
2. The cost of translation for written material depends on factors such as timescale, language, document format and the technicality of the subject matter to be translated. It is estimated that such costs could range between around £100 and £300 per 1,000 words.
3. All such costs would be met by the Church Commissioners.
4. For illustration, the costs of providing an interpreter for three working days and written translation of 25,000 words would range between around £4,000 and £10,000.

ITEM 502: NATIONAL CHURCH GOVERNANCE MEASURE

5. Mr Orange's amendment at item 524 would mean that grants currently provided by the Church Commissioners to the Archbishops' Council under section 1 of the Miscellaneous Provisions Measure 2018 could not be granted to CENS for the same or substantially similar purposes, unless they were deemed to also be possible to fall within the scope of the National Institutions Measure 1998.
6. As noted in the reply to Marcus Walker's question to the Church Commissioners at this Group of Sessions (Q58) in 2023 (the most recent year for which audited figures are available) £38m was distributed for purposes that fall only within the 2018 Measure and £81m was distributed under grant streams entirely covered by the 2018 Measure and partially covered by the 1998 Measure.

7. This amendment would mean that a significant proportion of grants for streams such as net zero, buildings for mission, the Diocesan Investment Programme and People & Partnerships funding would not be possible in their current form. In addition the Commissioners would be unable to provide funding for CENS to use to meet its own costs including the cost of safeguarding and the planned redress scheme. This would mean CENS would need to reduce its own budget for Votes 1-5 or increase the diocesan apportionment by something in the order of £25m p.a..
8. Mr Walker's amendment at item 525 would place an additional requirement on CENS and its Grant Committee to make an assessment of how it had paid particular regard to the requirements of section 67 of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners Act 1840 in all of its grant making decisions. This would be an additional requirement requiring some staff resource to provide an assessment in every case a grant is considered, but it is not feasible to provide an estimate of the associated staff time cost.
9. Mr Johnston's amendment at item 531 to require a National Institution to publish its response to an annual report by the Scrutiny Committee in so far as the report relates to that National Institution would require some staff resource, but the extent of this would depend on the nature and complexity of the required response.
10. Mr Johnston's amendment at item 541 to require a National Institution to report to the Charity Commission on the compliance by a National Institution with its duties as a charity in addition to its existing statutory obligations as a registered charity (including filing annual report and accounts and Reports of Serious Incidents and completing an annual return) would require some staff resource. The extent of this resource would depend on the nature and complexity of the report.