

To: All Diocesan Secretaries

The Reverend Alexander
McGregor

*Head of the Legal Office,
Chief Legal Adviser to
the Archbishops' Council
and the General Synod
and Official Solicitor to
the Church
Commissioners*

10th August 2023

Dear Diocesan Secretary

**General Synod
Promulgation of Amending Canon No. 42**

I enclose a copy of Amending Canon No. 42 which was enacted at the July group of sessions of the General Synod. I also enclose a copy of the Instrument of Enactment.

The Amending Canon should be proclaimed at the next meeting of the Diocesan Synod. There is no need for the Canon or the Instrument of Enactment to be read out. Instead, the following form of words is suggested for use by the Chair:

“I give notice that, at its July 2023 group of sessions, the General Synod resolved that Amending Canon No. 42 be made, promulgated and executed.

“Amending Canon No. 42 amends Canon C 30 by replacing the requirement for the bishop of each diocese to appoint a Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) with a requirement for the bishop to appoint a Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (DSO) with responsibility in the diocese, independent of the bishop, for professional leadership on and management of safeguarding matters. The Canon also provides for the professional supervision of DSOs and for the quality assurance of their work by the National Safeguarding Team. The changes will come into force diocese by diocese upon certification by the Archbishops’ Council.”

Copies of this letter and its enclosures go to your Diocesan Bishop and your Diocesan Registrar.

Yours sincerely

A S McGregor

The Legal Office of the National Institutions of the Church of England
Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ
Direct Line: +44(0)20 7898 1748 Switchboard: +44(0)20 7898 1000
E-mail: alexander.mcgregor@churchofengland.org DX: 148403 Westminster 5

GENERAL SYNOD OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
AMENDING CANON NO. 42 (SAFEGUARDING)

1. Canon C 30 (safeguarding) is amended as set out in paragraphs 2 and 3.
 - 2 (1) For paragraph 1(1) substitute—

“(1) The bishop of each diocese shall appoint a person (to be known as the “diocesan safeguarding officer”) to have responsibility in the diocese, independent of the bishop, for the professional leadership on and management of matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.”
 - (2) In paragraph 1(2)—
 - (a) for “advisors”, in each place it appears, substitute “officers”, and
 - (b) for “advisor” substitute “officer”.
 - (3) In paragraph 1(2), after paragraph (b) insert “;
 - (c) make provision for the professional supervision of diocesan safeguarding officers, and for the quality assurance of their work, by the body responsible for overseeing the implementation and operation of the code under section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016”.
3. In paragraph 3(1)(a), before “persons” insert “bodies or”.
4. The amendments in paragraph 2 come into force in relation to each diocese on the day specified in relation to that diocese in the certificate given by the Archbishops’ Council to the bishop of the diocese and the diocesan board of finance, except in so far as is necessary for enabling the making of regulations under paragraph 1 of Canon C 30 (as amended by paragraph 2 of this Amending Canon).

GENERAL SYNOD OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

CONSTITUTIONS AND CANONS ECCLESIASTICAL, maturely treated upon by the Archbishops, Bishops, Clergy and Laity of the General Synod of the Church of England in their Synod begun at Westminster in the Year of Our Lord Two thousand and twenty-one and in the seventieth year of the Reign of Our Late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second of Blessed and Glorious Memory and continued in being upon the Accession of Our Sovereign Lord King Charles the Third by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of His Other Realms and Territories King Head of the Commonwealth Defender of the Faith being a Canon entitled "Amending Canon No. 42" which received His Majesty's Royal Assent and Licence on the ninth day of June Two thousand and twenty-three

WE, being the Presidents, the Prolocutor of the Convocation of Canterbury, the Prolocutor of the Convocation of York and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the House of Laity of the said Synod do hereby declare and testify Our Consent to the said Canon entitled "Amending Canon No. 42" And in testimony of such Our Consent We have hereunto subscribed our names as hereafter follows:

DATED this eighth day of July in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty-three and in the first year of the reign of Our Sovereign Lord King Charles the Third

+Justin Cantuar:

PRESIDENT

+Stephen Ebor:

PRESIDENT

Luke Miller

PROLOCUTOR

Kate Wharton

PROLOCUTOR

J Harrison

CHAIR, HOUSE OF LAITY

A.J. Coulter

VICE-CHAIR, HOUSE OF LAITY

A.S. McGregor

REGISTRAR