



House of Lords
House of Commons
Ecclesiastical Committee

Diocesan Stipends Funds (Amendment) Measure

244th Report

*Ordered by the House of Lords to be
printed on 24 May 2023*

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to be printed on 24 May 2023*

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by authority of the House of Lords and
the House of Commons

Ecclesiastical Committee

The Ecclesiastical Committee is a statutory Committee appointed under the Church of England Assembly (Powers) Act 1919.

It comprises thirty members, fifteen of whom are Members of the House of Commons, appointed by the Speaker, and fifteen of whom are members of the House of Lords, appointed by the Lord Speaker. The quorum is twelve.

Appointments to the Committee are generally made early in a Parliament. Unless the Speaker or the Lord Speaker decide otherwise, members appointed by them remain on the Committee for the life of the Parliament.

While its powers are those laid down by the Act, the procedures it has adopted are those of a Joint Select Committee.

Current membership

HOUSE OF LORDS

[Baroness Butler-Sloss](#)

[The Earl of Cork and Orrery](#)

[Lord Cormack](#)

[Lord Dannatt](#)

[Baroness Eaton](#)

[Lord Faulkner of Worcester](#)

[Lord Field of Birkenhead](#)

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[Rachael Maskell MP](#)

[Gary Sambrook MP](#)

[Andrew Selous MP](#)

[Jim Shannon MP](#)

[Sir Desmond Swayne MP](#)

[Stephen Timms MP](#)

[Martin Vickers MP](#)

Remit

The Ecclesiastical Committee examines draft Measures presented to it by the Legislative Committee of the General Synod of the Church of England. It reports to Parliament on whether or not it considers the measures to be expedient.

It generally asks members of the General Synod to assist it in its deliberations. In some circumstances a conference of the Ecclesiastical Committee and the Legislative Committee may be convened.

The Church of England Measure on which the Committee has reported is presented to both Houses in its final form at the same time as the Committee makes its report.

Before the Measure becomes law, both Houses must approve motions that the Measure should be presented to the Sovereign for Royal Assent in the form that it was laid before Parliament.

Once both Houses have passed the necessary approval motions, the Measure is presented for Royal Assent and becomes law.

Publications

The reports and proceedings of the Committee are published by Order of both Houses. All publications of the Committee are on the Internet at <http://www.parliament.uk/ecclesiastical-committee>

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary of the Ecclesiastical Committee, Legislation Office, House of Lords, London, SW1A 0PW. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 3103, and the email address is eccttee@parliament.uk

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244th Report of the Ecclesiastical Committee

1. The Ecclesiastical Committee has met and considered the Measure set out below. The Measure was submitted to the Ecclesiastical Committee by the Legislative Committee of the General Synod, along with a Comments and Explanations document. The text of the Measure, and its accompanying Comments and Explanations document, are published online on the Committee's web pages.¹

Diocesan Stipends Funds (Amendment) Measure

2. In the accompanying Comments and Explanations document, the Legislative Committee explains that the Diocesan Stipends Funds (Amendment) Measure amends the Diocesan Stipends Funds Measure 1953 ("the 1953 Measure") to remove the geographical restriction on the application of monies standing to the credit of the income account of a diocesan stipends fund. The removal of this restriction would allow a diocese, where satisfied that funds held in the income account of the diocesan stipends fund did not need to be used for statutory purposes under section 5(1) of the 1953 Measure, to transfer those funds either directly to the stipends fund of another diocese or to another charity which must then transfer them to the stipends funds of one or more other dioceses. The Measure follows a recommendation of the Mutuality in Finances Group, formed in September 2020, to explore options for greater generosity between dioceses.

3. The Committee discussed the Measure with representatives of the General Synod. The transcript of the Committee's proceedings is published online on the Committee's web pages.²

View of the Committee

4. **The Committee is of the opinion that the Diocesan Stipends Funds (Amendment) Measure is expedient.**

1 Ecclesiastical Committee, 'Publications': <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/174/ecclesiastical-committee-joint-committee/publications/>

2 Ecclesiastical Committee, Oral Evidence Transcript, 25 April 2023: <https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/13186/pdf/>

Minutes of Proceedings

Tuesday 25 April 2023

Minutes of the (hybrid) meeting of the Ecclesiastical Committee held on Tuesday 25 April 2023 at 10.00 am.

Present:

Baroness Butler-Sloss (Chair)	Sir Peter Bottomley MP
The Earl of Cork and Orrery	Fiona Bruce MP
Lord Dannatt	Dr Lisa Cameron MP
Lord Glenarthur	Miriam Cates MP
Baroness Harris of Richmond	Sir Roger Gale MP
Lord Jones	Rachael Maskell MP
Lord Judd	Andrew Selous MP
Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede	Sir Desmond Swayne MP
	Stephen Timms MP
	Martin Vickers MP

Declaration of Interests

Members of the Committee declared the following interests:

Sir Peter Bottomley

Parliamentary warden at St Margaret's Church, Westminster

Fiona Bruce MP

Lay canon at Chester Cathedral

The Earl of Cork and Orrery

Governor of the Chichester Cathedral Restoration and Development Trust

Trustee of the Chichester Cathedral Millennium Endowment Trust

Lord Dannatt

Trustee of the Norwich Cathedral Trust

Churchwarden of the parish of Intwood-cum-Keswick in the Diocese of Norwich

Baroness Harris of Richmond

High steward of Ripon Cathedral

Nephew is a priest in the Isle of Man

Lord Jones

Chairman of a diocesan education board

Martin Vickers MP

Member of the Lincoln Cathedral Council

Diocesan Stipends Funds (Amendment) Measure

The Committee considered the Measure, with the assistance of the following representatives of the General Synod:

The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Sheffield

Kate Wharton, Prolocutor, Convocation of York

William Nye, Secretary General, General Synod

Chris Packer, Legislative Counsel

Edward Dobson, Senior Advisory Lawyer and Designated Officer

Decision

The Committee deliberated.

It was moved that the Diocesan Stipends Funds (Amendment) Measure be deemed expedient.

The motion was agreed to.

The Committee adjourned.