



House of Lords
House of Commons
Ecclesiastical Committee

Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure

243rd Report

*Ordered by the House of Lords to be
printed on 9 September 2021*

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to be printed on 9 September 2021*

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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](#)

[Baroness Eaton](#)

[Lord Faulkner of Worcester](#)

[Lord Field of Birkenhead](#)

[Lord Glenarthur](#)

[Baroness Harris of Richmond](#)

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[Lord Lisvane](#)

[Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall](#)

[Lord Plant of Highfield](#)

[Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean](#)

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[Mr Ben Bradshaw MP](#)

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[Dr Lisa Cameron MP](#)

[Miriam Cates MP](#)

[Sir Roger Gale MP](#)

[Mr David Lammy MP](#)

[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 ecccttee@parliament.uk

Contents

243rd Report of the Ecclesiastical Committee	3
Minutes of Proceedings	5

243rd Report of the Ecclesiastical Committee

1. The Ecclesiastical Committee has met and considered the Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure. 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, is published online on the Committee's web pages.¹

Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure

2. In the accompanying Comments and Explanations document, the Legislative Committee explains that the Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure amends the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, replacing the existing statutory duty to “have due regard” to House of Bishops’ safeguarding guidance with provision for a safeguarding code of practice. As well as giving guidance, the code of practice may impose requirements on a “relevant person”, and a relevant person to whom a requirement applies will be obliged to comply with that requirement.

3. In addition, the Measure expands and updates the list of relevant persons, and provides, by way of an amendment to the Churchwardens Measure 2001, a new power for the bishop to suspend a churchwarden who fails to comply with the code of practice.

4. 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

5. The Committee is of the opinion that the Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure is expedient.

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

2 Ecclesiastical Committee publications page: <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/174/ecclesiastical-committee-joint-committee/publications/>

Minutes of Proceedings

Tuesday 20 July 2021

Minutes of the (virtual) meeting of the Ecclesiastical Committee held on Tuesday 20 July 2021 at 10.00 am.

Present:

Baroness Butler-Sloss (Chair)	Sir Peter Bottomley MP
The Earl of Cork and Orrery	Fiona Bruce MP
Lord Cormack	Dr Lisa Cameron MP
Baroness Eaton	Miriam Cates MP
Lord Faulkner of Worcester	Sir Roger Gale MP
Baroness Harris of Richmond	Rachael Maskell MP
Lord Jones	Andrew Selous MP
Lord Lexden	Sir Desmond Swayne MP
Lord Lisvane	Stephen Timms MP
Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall	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 Cormack

Deputy High Steward of Lincoln Cathedral

Baroness Eaton

Lay canon at Bradford Cathedral

Baroness Harris of Richmond

High steward of Ripon Cathedral

Nephew is a priest in the Isle of Man

Lord Lisvane

Married to a Church of England priest

Churchwarden (s2(a) and (f) of inserted 5A)

Stephen Timms MP

Member of the St Paul's Cathedral Council

Martin Vickers MP

Member of the Lincoln Cathedral Council

Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure

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

The Rt Revd Jonathan Gibbs, Bishop of Huddersfield, Lead Bishop for Safeguarding

The Rt Worshipful Morag Ellis QC, Chair of the Steering Committee

Mr David Worlock, Deputy Director of Development, Safeguarding

The Reverend Alexander McGregor, Chief Legal Adviser

Mr William Nye, Secretary General

Mr Chris Packer, Legislative Counsel

Decision

The Committee deliberated.

It was moved that the Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure be deemed expedient.

The motion was agreed to.

The Committee adjourned.