

Diocesan Synod Elections 2024 -2027: Proposed Formula Calculations

The Bishop's Council recommend Column 1 as the formula for the next Diocesan Synod to maintain a sufficiently large Synod to be representative.

Deanery	House of Clergy			House of Laity				
	No of Clergy	Column 1 Ratio of 1:4	Column 2 Ratio 1:6	Column 3 Ratio 1:3.8	ER 2023	Column 1 Ratio of 1:198	Column 2 Ratio of 1:300	Column 3 Ratio of 190
Bristol South	24	6	4	6	1384	7	5	7
Bristol West	37	9	6	10	2218	11	7	12
City	48	12	8	13	1865	9	6	10
Chippenham	16	4	3	4	1311	7	4	7
Kingswood & South Gloucestershire	54	14	9	14	2292	12	8	12
North Wiltshire	15	4	3	4	1291	7	4	7
Swindon	36	9	6	9	2076	10	7	11
Total	230	58	39	60	12437	63	41	66
Ex-Officio		8	8	8		6	6	6
Bishop's Nominees		5	5	5		5	5	5
Co-opted		5	5	5		5	5	5
Grand Total		76	57	78		79	57	82

The Minimum no. of Synod members is 100; maximum 270.

Column 1 – proposed option (orange)

155 members in the two Houses, with the House of Laity having a majority of 3: (76 clergy, 79 laity, 2 bishops = 157)

Bishop's Council decided to recommend Column 1 because this formula gives the same number total number of representatives for Diocesan Synod at was agreed for 2021 – 2024 term.

Column 2 – (white)

114 members in the two Houses, with the House of Laity having a majority of 2: (57 clergy, 57 laity, 2 bishops = 116)

Bishop's Council considered recommending reducing the size of Diocesan Synod because there has been a high number of vacancies over the course of the last Diocesan Synod's three year term. Despite this, Bishop's Council did not wish to reduce Diocesan Synod's size, especially when Living in Love and Faith (LLF) is being discussed. This is to ensure that Diocesan Synod is sufficiently large to be representative and all voices have the opportunity to be heard.

For information, shown in the greyed out column (Column 3) is the outcome if the same formula was used for 2024-2027 as was agreed for 2021-2024. Since then, the number of licensed clergy and the number of laity on Electoral Rolls has increased. So if the same election formula was used there would be provision for 162 on Diocesan Synod. Bishop's Council decided not to recommend an increase in Diocesan Synod representation because there have been a significant number of vacancies throughout the last three-year Diocesan Synod term.

Please could Diocesan synod members encourage fellow clergy and parishioners to stand during the next Diocesan Synod elections to ensure that our Synod is representative of our Diocese.