



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

LAMBETH PALACE

The Right Reverend Tim Thornton  
*Bishop at Lambeth*

Office Ref: TT/AH

08 December 2020

To those interested in participating in the CDM Consultation process

I write in my capacity as Chair of the Clergy Discipline Measure Working Group. Last Friday the Group I chair released our Interim Report. This Report was made available digitally on the Church of England website, and shared with all Diocesan Bishops of the Church of England. It was also shared with a number of networks that the Working Group has interacted with over the course of its life to date. This Report contained details of a Consultation Process. This Process allows for response to the Working Group's Proposals to be made orally at a series of digital consultations. It also allows for written submissions.

Many people have signed up to attend Consultation meetings. Some have already submitted written responses, and others have indicated their desire to do so. A significant number of people however have raised concerns with my assistant Adam about the timing of this consultation process, falling as it does in Advent, a busy time for many clergy and other Church officers. It was my judgement that the times allotted for both oral and written contribution left sufficient time for people to respond fully to proposals. Many have now raised very legitimate concerns about the timing of this Consultation process. I can only apologise for the error of judgement on my part.

The purpose of the Consultation process that has been set up is to listen to those with an interest in the Measure and its replacement. I do not want to rush this work, nor do I want to hold a Consultation process which by its timing is prohibitive for those whose stories and perspectives we want to hear.

As such, listening to the concerns that have been raised about the previously proposed timetable, I have taken the decision to change the Consultation timetable as previously published in the following ways:

1. Written responses to the Proposals outlined in the Interim Report can be submitted until **Friday 15 January 2021.**

2. All digital Consultation meetings to which *clergy* are invited have been moved to early 2021. I have also listened to those who have expressed concern about the lack of evening slots available in the current proposed timetable. The revised timetable **is set out below:**

Date	Time
Wednesday 06 January 2021	10.00 – 11.40am
Wednesday 06 January 2021	02.00 – 3.40pm
Wednesday 06 January 2021	06.00 – 7.40pm
Friday 08 January 2021	10.00 – 11.40am
Friday 08 January 2021	02.00 – 3.40pm
Monday 11 January 2021	06.00 – 7.40pm
Tuesday 12 January 2021	06.00 – 7.40pm
Wednesday 13 January 2021	06.0 – 7.40pm

3. All digital Consultation meetings to which *other interested parties* are invited have been moved to early 2021. The revised timetable **is set out below:**

Wednesday 13 January 2021	02.00 – 3.40pm
Thursday 14 January January 2021	06.00 – 7.40pm

4. All digital Consultation meetings to which *senior diocesan staff* and *union reps* have been invited will **go ahead as scheduled.**

This letter is sent with my apologies, and in the hope that the Consultation process outlined above will be helpful in moving the work of the Working Group forward in a fashion that is both timely, and which allows for the full participation of all of God's people.

If you have signed up to a Consultation meeting which has been replaced by the above timetable, my office will make contact with you directly. If you have not yet signed up to a Consultation meeting, please contact Adam at [adam.hobson@lambethpalace.org.uk](mailto:adam.hobson@lambethpalace.org.uk), indicating which time and date you would like to attend.

In the first instance, please direct any other queries or comments arising from this letter to my Adam and he will bring your correspondence to my attention.

Yours,



The Right Reverend Tim Thornton,  
Bishop at Lambeth