

The Bishop at Lambeth, the Right Reverend Bishop Tim Thornton, wishes to reiterate his commitment replacing the Clergy Discipline Measure with new legislation. As such, he makes the following statement:

“Last October, I convened a Working Group to review the Clergy Discipline Measure. Since then, I have dedicated a considerable amount of time thinking about and reflecting on the Measure. I am grateful to those who have helped me to think about the Measure, particularly those who have experienced pain or hurt as a result of the Measure and its application. Rather than editing the Clergy Discipline Measure, I think the Measure needs to be replaced.

“The Working Group I am chairing is beginning to formulate proposals, which will be shared in a number of public consultations across England in the coming months. Details of these consultations will be shared on the Sheldon Hub and elsewhere.

“These proposals will pave a way towards the formulation of legislation which will seek to reflect a more proportionate response to clergy discipline, set in the broader framework of professional standards.

“These proposals, which will specifically recommend that the Clergy Discipline Measure be replaced with new legislation, will be brought to a meeting of the House of Bishops in May 2020, where I will seek the commitment of the House to replacing the Measure.

“After the period of public consultation, the proposals the Working Groups brings forward will be translated into draft legislation. I hope that this draft legislation will be given its first reading at the February 2021 General Synod. This timescale seeks to balance the need for change with the need to develop legislation that is sustainable in the long term.”

If this statement gives rise to any questions or comments, please contact Mr Adam Hobson, the Bishop at Lambeth’s Executive Assistant (Metropolitan), in the first instance. He can be contacted at adam.hobson@lambethpalace.org.uk or 02078981013. If you would like to join a mailing list used to publicise the forthcoming public consultations, please email Adam who will arrange this.

13 March 2020
Lambeth Palace