

BILL NO. 4

Explanatory Memorandum

In 2006, the General Synod approved a Statute (Chapter III of 2006) to make provision for the funding of child protection officers for the Church of Ireland.

In 2017, the concept of safeguarding was extended to include ‘adults at risk of harm’ and ‘adults in need of protection’ (NI legislation) / ‘vulnerable adults’ (RI guidance and best practice). A Safeguarding Board was established jointly by the Representative Church Body and the Standing Committee. At the same time, the existing Child Protection Officers undertook additional work around adult safeguarding, overseeing policy development, training and parish vetting and providing advice to parishes in event of issues arising. The Officers will, in future, be known as Safeguarding Officers.

The service provided has been of significant assistance to parishes and dioceses over the years and has enabled the Church to deliver a high level of consistency in applying safeguarding policy as well as to provide a vetting service to parishes.

With the extension of the concept of safeguarding to include adults, there is additional work and additional resources are required. Synod is now asked to consider a new bill to provide funding for the activity under the Safeguarding Board by means of extending the levy on parishes. The Representative Church Body will also continue to make a contribution to these costs.

REV CANON GILLIAN WHARTON
MR GEOFFREY PERRIN

BILL

(at the request of the RCB and the Standing Committee)

To Repeal and Replace Statute Chapter III of 2006

WHEREAS the Statute Chapter III of 2006 dealt with matters pertaining to a child protection policy and the provision and funding of child protection officers for the Church of Ireland;

AND WHEREAS the concept of safeguarding has come to embrace concepts of protection of adults as well as of children, with consequent need for additional provision of staff and resources;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to make provision concerning the financing of the work of the Safeguarding Board, and Officers appointed under section 17(c) of Chapter X of the Constitution, to advise and assist the Church of Ireland in responding to concerns about the welfare of children and adults and, in particular to advise and assist bishops and diocesan councils in ensuring that *Safeguarding Trust: The Church of Ireland Code of Good Practice for Ministry with Children* and *Adult Safeguarding: The Church of Ireland Code of Good Practice* are implemented and adhered to in all parishes;

AND WHEREAS for such purpose it is desirable that a contribution towards the cost of the work of Safeguarding be raised within each diocese;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary for the Statute Chapter III of 2006 to be repealed in order to make provision for the same;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland in General Synod assembled in Armagh in the year 2018 and by the authority of the same as follows:

To make provision concerning the financing of the work of the Safeguarding Board including the work of the Officers and parish vetting

1. From 1st January 2019 each diocese shall contribute towards the cost of the work of Safeguarding (as defined in Chapter XVI of the Constitution) at a rate to be determined by the Representative Body not later than 30th June in 2018 and each year thereafter:

Provided that, after the initial rate is set by 30th June 2018, a rate determined for any one year, being more than twenty-five *per centum* in excess of the rate for the year immediately preceding, shall become operative only on the passing of an affirmative resolution of the General Synod.

2. (1) The contribution from each diocese shall be the sum of the number of cures, including vacant cures, in such diocese at the preceding 30th June (as agreed between the Representative Body and the diocesan council) multiplied by the minimum approved stipend of an incumbent as fixed from time to time by the General Synod in accordance with Section 51(1) of Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland and operative on 1st January of the year to which the contribution relates multiplied by the rate *per centum* determined by the Representative Body in accordance with section 1.

- (2) In the case of a diocese, part of which is situated in the Republic of Ireland and part of which is situated in Northern Ireland, account shall be taken of the differing figures for minimum approved stipend fixed in respect of incumbents resident in each jurisdiction and the contribution shall be subdivided accordingly.
 - (3) In the event of disagreement between the Representative Body and the diocesan council as to the number of cures in any diocese, such shall be determined by the decision of the archbishop of the province in which such diocese is situated.
3. Contributions shall be payable quarterly in arrears by each diocesan council on 31st March, 30th June, 30th September and 31st December each year or in such other manner as the Representative Body may approve.
4. Each diocesan council shall be at liberty to recover in whole or in part the contribution so charged by direct assessment on the individual parishes, unions or groups of parishes, or churches, within its jurisdiction in whatever manner it deems appropriate.
5. For the purposes of this Statute the term ‘cure’ shall have the same general meaning as contained in Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, and shall include:
 - (a) A parish, union or group of parishes under the care of an incumbent appointed under Part III of Chapter IV;
 - (b) A parish, union or group of parishes under the care of a bishop’s curate appointed under Section 42 of Chapter IV;
 - (c) A parish, union or group of parishes assigned to the immediate care of a vicar appointed under Part X of Chapter IV;
 - (d) A parish, union or group of parishes in respect of which a certificate has been issued by the Representative Body under Section 52 of Chapter IV;
 - (e) A “light-duty parish” as defined by Section 62 of Chapter IV;
 - (f) A cathedral which is non-parochial;
 - (g) A ministry unit that has registered with the regulator of charities appropriate to the jurisdiction and which is recognised as a part of the Anglican structures of the diocese in which it is situated and which is operating under the safeguarding policy of the Church of Ireland.
6. The Standing Committee shall, at the ordinary session of the General Synod in 2019, and triennially thereafter, and may at any other session, present a report on the implementation of this Statute, specifying any amendment which may appear to be necessary or expedient.
7. Statute Chapter III of 2006 is hereby repealed with effect from 1 January 2019.