

GENERAL SYNOD 2010

**REPORT OF THE CLERGY PENSIONS BOARD
Seconded by the Revd John McDowell, Diocese of Down**

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Your Grace, members of Synod, I suspect that many of you may have heard more than you want to hear about pensions already, but in seconding the Report of the Clergy Pensions Board I would ask for your patience for just a little longer.

I would draw Synod's attention to pages 196-199 of the Book of Reports, which describes, I think very clearly, the details of an Internal Disputes Resolution Procedure which will further update and improve on the governance of the Clergy Pension Scheme.

The Internal Disputes Resolution procedure is referred to in para12.2 of the revised Chapter 14 of the Constitution and will replace the old procedure of an appeal to the Court of the General Synod outlined in the current Chapter 14 para16.4

The revision has been made to bring the administration of the Scheme into compliance with civil law, in that the Pensions Ombudsman cannot consider a complaint until it has first exhausted the process of an Internal Disputes Procedure.

I should say at this point that queries and disputes from members can usually be cleared up by talking to the staff of the Pensions Department in Church House, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for the very friendly and efficient service which they provide.

However, when an answer cannot be found satisfactorily in this informal way, members of the Fund, both pensioners and contributors, can use the IDP set out in pages 197-8 of the Book of Reports, for their complaint to be investigated and a Determination given.

It should be noted that the IDR procedure is intended to deal with complaints regarding any financial loss which the member feels is due to the maladministration of the Fund or disputes of fact or law in relation to an action taken by a person or persons responsible for the Fund.

The Trustee and the Board believe that the IDR not only brings another aspect of the administration of the Fund into line with civil law, but also makes the method of resolving disputes efficient and transparent.

Your Grace, members of Synod, I have pleasure in seconding the Report of the Clergy Pension Board.