

BILL NO 4**Explanatory Memorandum**

The report of the Representative Church Body (RCB) to the General Synod 2010 stated that the RCB had undertaken to review the timing of the process involved in arriving at and approval of the annual rates of the Minimum Approved Stipend (MAS) (*Book of Reports 2010* page 28).

The review was initiated following consistent concerns raised at General Synod at how changing economic circumstances may make decisions on MAS levels out of date by the time they are implemented.

Under the current system a recommendation for MAS levels is arrived at by the RB Stipends Committee in January, considered by the RB Executive Committee in February and by the Representative Church Body in March. It is then recommended to the next ordinary session of the General Synod and implemented the following January.

The RB Stipends Committee produced the following proposal for a revised timing and process for arriving at MAS levels that was approved by the RB Executive Committee, the Representative Church Body and the Standing Committee:

- Statistical data to 30 June to be used.
- RB Stipends Committee to meet in late August/early September to consider MAS levels for the following January.
- RB Executive Committee to consider recommendation of Stipends Committee and make proposal to September meeting of RB.
- September meeting of RB (to be held in morning) to consider Executive Committee proposal and make recommendation to Standing Committee of General Synod.
- September meeting of Standing Committee (to be held in afternoon) to ratify, on behalf of General Synod, recommendation of RB.
- MAS to be implemented in following January.
- MAS as implemented in January to be reported to General Synod in that year.

This new process was proposed with the understanding that a movement of the MAS implementation date away from January each year would cause diocesan and central Church budgetary and administrative difficulties.

The proposed new sequence of events would significantly reduce the delay between the decision on MAS levels and the date of implementation.

The inclusion of the words "an incumbent or" in the substituted paragraph (a) of section 51 (1) of Chapter IV is to correct a clerical error following the consolidation of the Constitution in 2003.

BISHOP OF CORK, CLOYNE AND ROSS
MR SR HARPER

BILL

(at the request of the Representative Church Body and the Standing Committee of the General Synod)

To amend Section 51 (1) of Chapter IV of the Constitution

WHEREAS it is desirable that the process of annual approval of Minimum Approved Stipend levels be changed to reduce the delay between approval and implementation;

AND WHEREAS for such purposes it is necessary to amend Section 51(1) of Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland;

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 2011 and by the authority of the same as follows:-

1. In this Statute "Chapter IV" means Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland.
2. In Section 51(1) of Chapter IV for the second and third paragraphs thereof there shall be substituted:

"The term "approved stipend" shall mean such stipend as the diocesan council from time to time, and after all the facts that appear to be relevant in the particular case have been taken into account, shall determine to be the "approved" stipend of the office: provided that the sum of the approved stipends for incumbents, divided by the number of incumbencies in the diocese, shall not exceed 110% of the minimum stipend approved by the Standing Committee on behalf of the General Synod.

The Standing Committee on behalf of the General Synod shall in 2011 and annually thereafter determine by resolution, to be reported to the next ordinary session of the General Synod, the minimum stipend which may be approved for:

- (a) an incumbent or a member of the clergy appointed as bishop's curate under the provisions of section 42 of this Chapter or a diocesan curate over the age of 30 years appointed under the provisions of section 43 of this Chapter and
- (b) a diocesan curate who is under the age of 30 years or a curate assistant.'

SCHEDULE

In Section 2 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland for the definition of “Minimum Approved Stipend” there shall be substituted:

“Minimum Approved Stipend” shall mean the minimum stipend determined by the Standing Committee on behalf of the General Synod in accordance with the provisions of section 51 (1) of Chapter IV.