

**Bill No 2****Explanatory Memorandum**

In 2012, the General Synod passed a statute (Chapter II of 2012) which established a Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures. Under section 2 of that statute, the members of the Commission were to be appointed by resolution and were to hold office 'until the termination of the ordinary meeting of the General Synod which shall be held in 2014'. Casual vacancies were to be filled by election by the Standing Committee. Shortly after adopting the statute, the General Synod passed a resolution on the appointment of members of the Commission.

The terms of reference of the Commission are contained in a schedule to the original statute. The first paragraph of that schedule directs the Commission to "report to General Synod not later than May 2014, with conclusions and recommendations on appropriate future arrangements for episcopal ministry and structures in the Church of Ireland."

The adoption of the proposed Bill will extend the term of office of the current Commission membership until 2016, with provisions to deal with any current or future vacancies should they arise, and give the Commission a new deadline of May 2016 by which to report to the General Synod with conclusions and recommendations on appropriate future arrangements for episcopal ministry and structures in the Church.

THE BISHOP OF TUAM, KILLALA AND ACHONRY  
MRS ETHNE HARKNESS

**BILL**

**To Amend Chapter II of 2012**

WHEREAS in 2012, the General Synod established the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to extend the time available for the Commission to complete its work;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to make additional provision in relation to membership of the Commission;

AND WHEREAS for this purpose it is necessary to amend Chapter II of 2012;

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland, in General Synod assembled in Dublin in the year 2014, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

1. In this Statute, "Chapter II of 2012" means the Statute of the General Synod, Chapter II of 2012.
2. For Section 2 of Chapter II of 2012, the following shall be substituted:
  2. The members of the Commission in office immediately before the termination of the ordinary meeting of the General Synod in 2014 shall hold office until the termination of the ordinary meeting of the General Synod which shall be held in the year 2016. The Commission shall have the power to co-opt up to two additional members.
  - 2A. Casual vacancies, including any casual vacancies in the membership of the Commission immediately before the termination of the ordinary meeting of the General Synod in 2014, shall be filled in the following manner:
    - Where the outgoing member is a Bishop, by election by the House of Bishops;
    - Where the outgoing member is an Honorary Secretary, by election by the Honorary Secretaries;
    - Where the outgoing member is a representative of the Methodist Church in Ireland or the Roman Catholic Church, by appointment by the relevant Church;
    - In all other cases, by election by the Standing Committee.
3. In the first paragraph of the Terms of Reference for the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures contained in the Schedule to Chapter II of 2012, the year '2014' shall be replaced by the year '2016'.