

LEGAL QUESTIONS COMMITTEE

May 2017

PROPOSED DELIVERANCE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Amend Standing Order 95(i) as detailed in Section 1 and Appendix A of the Report. *(Section 1 – Amendments to Standing Orders)*
3. Approve the principles outlined in Section 2.7 of the Report and instruct the Committee to bring a draft Discipline Overture, written in accordance with these principles, to the Assembly of 2018. *(Section 2 – Review of the Disciplinary Acts – A Consolidating/Cohering Act)*
4. Instruct the Committee, jointly with the Ministries Council, to consider whether there is scope to reformulate the Code of Professional Practice and Good Conduct for the Ministries of the Church of Scotland as a set of rules which might allow breach of the Code, or of a version of it, to be defined as a disciplinary offence, and to report to the General Assembly of 2019. *(Section 2 – Review of the Disciplinary Acts – A Consolidating/Cohering Act)*
5. Note that the Unitary Constitution has been amended (a) to include reference to the requirement to hold a Stated Annual Meeting and (b) to correct a reference to an appeal process, and agree to amend the Model Deed to similar effect, all as outlined in Appendix C. *(Section 3 – Amendment to the Unitary Constitution and Model Deed and Appendix C)*
6. Pass an Act amending the Model Deeds of Constitution Act (Act II 1994) as set out in Appendix C. *(Section 3 – Amendment to the Unitary Constitution and Model Deed and Appendix C)*
7. Agree that the process known as 'Arbitration', which has been used to make decisions between buildings in certain readjustment cases, should cease to be available from 1 January 2018. *(Section 4 – Review of Arbitration in Relation to Buildings)*
8. Instruct Presbyteries to review any agreed Bases of Union or Linking which have yet to be implemented and, where any such Basis includes a clause indicating that the Panel of Arbiters should be asked to choose a building, instruct the Presbytery to amend its Plan by categorising the buildings in the proposed Union or Linking in terms of section 5(2) of Act VII 2003. *(Section 4 – Review of Arbitration in Relation to Buildings)*
9. Instruct the General Trustees, in consultation with the Central Properties Department, to compile a guidance document for Presbyteries, outlining good practice which can be employed when choosing between buildings in the appraisal process. *(Section 4 – Review of Arbitration in Relation to Buildings)*
10. Instruct the Committee, in consultation with the Ministries Council, to revise and consolidate the provisions of the Ministries Act, as outlined in the Report, and to report to the Assembly of 2018. *(Section 6 – Review of the Ministry Act and the Church Courts Act)*
11. Pass an Act amending the Ministry Act (Act II 2000) as set out in Appendix D. *(Section 6 – Review of the Ministry Act and the Church Courts Act and Appendix D)*

12. Instruct the Committee to undertake a consultation exercise in relation to membership of Church Courts and to report to the Assembly of 2018. (*Section 6 – Review of the Ministry Act and the Church Courts Act*)

REPORT

1. Amendments to Standing Orders

1.1 The report of the Assembly Arrangements Committee contains a proposal at section 5 that the time allowed for a Convener giving in the Report of his or her Committee should be reduced from 20 minutes to 15 minutes. The corresponding change to Standing Orders, if agreed, is set out in Appendix A.

2. Review of the Disciplinary Acts – A Consolidating/Cohering Act

2.1 The General Assembly of 2014 instructed the Committee to review the Acts of the General Assembly dealing with matters of Discipline, Bullying and Discrimination, with a view to bringing forward one consolidating and cohering Act to a future General Assembly.

2.2 At present there are four relevant Acts: the Discipline of Ministry Act (Act III 2001), the Protection against Bullying Act (Act IV 2007), the Protection against Discrimination Act (Act V 2007) and the Discipline of Elders, Readers and Office Bearers Act (Act I 2010).

2.3 The Committee established a Working Group from amongst its members to undertake this project. It had originally been hoped to bring the results of this work to the General Assembly of 2016 in the form of a new Discipline Act. The scale, however, of the task and the need for consultation meant that this ambition was not realised.

2.4 The consultation process included discussions with the Presbytery Clerks' Forum and the Judicial Proceedings Panel, members of which are actively involved as stakeholders when disciplinary cases arise. Consultations

also took place with congregations which had previously been affected by discipline cases. In order to widen the consultation further, during the General Assembly of 2016, the Working Group published a draft Discipline Act on the Church website, inviting comments to be submitted by 31st October 2016. The Working Group used various methods, including a video appeal on the Church website and direct approaches to some of those previously involved in the Church's disciplinary processes, to encourage responses from as wide a constituency as possible. As a consequence, forty-six constructive, thoughtful and in the main, encouraging, responses were submitted, not only from individuals, but also from congregations and Presbyteries. This comprehensive consultation process has been a valuable exercise, which has significantly shaped the thinking of the Working Group on this important piece of legislation. The Committee is grateful to all who have contributed to this process by taking the time and trouble to share their thoughts, expertise and experiences.

2.5 *The single most important objective in revising this legislation remains that of significantly reducing the time taken to complete disciplinary cases.* While feedback from the consultation process indicated that the proposed consolidation and reform of the current Disciplinary Acts was welcome, some doubts were expressed about whether the proposed new processes would succeed in reducing the time taken for cases to be completed. On reflection, the number of volunteers involved in the process (an average of fifteen if a case went through to the Presbyterial Commission), would have militated against a case being concluded within any reasonable period of time.

2.6 Recognising that a more radical rethink is required, the Committee now proposes that the Church's disciplinary processes should be further reformed and updated. The Committee intends to proceed with the draft proposals which were published in last year's website consultation, but overlaying those, invites the Assembly to approve a further series of principles which would govern the ongoing work of the Working Group and shape a new draft Discipline Act. Where there is conflict between what is stated below and the proposals published last year, the principles mentioned below would prevail.

2.7 Proposed principles for which approval is now sought

2.7.1 A discipline case should be assigned to an individual picked from a Panel of Assessors (which, for the whole Church, might consist of, say, up to twelve people). The Assessor would be a legally qualified person, being an elder and a member of a Kirk Session, appointed through the Nomination process for a fixed term. The Assessor would take the initial decision on how to deal with a Complaint and, as per the flowchart annexed at Appendix B, would carry out the investigation and if appropriate, would also pursue the prosecution of the Complaint.

2.7.2 The Assessor would be assisted by an Adviser who will be a Minister of Word and Sacrament and a member of Presbytery. Any such Adviser would only have a supporting role and the Assessor would retain sole responsibility for pursuing a case.

2.7.3 Strict time limits (calculated in days) should be applied to the various stages in the process of a disciplinary case. Suggested time limits are indicated on the flowchart at Appendix B.

2.7.4 Candidates in training should be included in the list of people subject to discipline. This should include candidates for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, Readership and the Diaconate.

2.7.5 Along with other additions previously proposed, for the purpose of clarification, breach of an individual's

vows of ordination would be added to the list of disciplinary offences.

2.7.6 The Complaints Procedure should be referenced within the new Act.

2.7.7 If a Parish Minister is administratively suspended, the Act should direct that an Interim Moderator must be appointed.

2.7.8 Legal expenses should not be available until the stage when it is decided that there is a case to answer. The Church's proposed Legal Aid Regulations, which will also be brought before the Assembly in 2018, will apply at that stage.

2.7.9 Specific provisions will be included in the new Act as to citation of witnesses, who are themselves subject to the Discipline Act, in respect of their attendance at hearings.

2.7.10 A Discipline Tribunal of three members should hear cases sent to it by an Assessor.

2.7.11 Provision should also be made to allow for a Respondent to accept deferment of any Censure, subject to conditions to be imposed by the Assessor and also to accept a proposed Censure with consent.

2.8. Code of Professional Practice and Good Conduct for the Ministries of the Church of Scotland

2.8.1 Further to the website consultation on the new Discipline Act, a number of comments were received to the effect that breach of the Code of Professional Practice and Good Conduct for the Ministries of the Church of Scotland ("the Code") ought to be a disciplinary offence.

The Committee is conscious that the Code, as approved by the General Assembly in 2008, was not intended to define disciplinary offences. The Committee therefore seeks authority to work jointly with the Ministries Council in reviewing the Code, to consider whether there is scope for it to be reformulated as a set of rules which might allow

such a disciplinary offence to be defined. A report would be brought to the General Assembly of 2019.

2.9 Conclusion

2.9.1 The Committee's firm intention is to bring a new Discipline Act, developed further from the draft on which the Church website consultation took place, to the General Assembly of 2018. This legislation will be drafted in accordance with the above principles, together with completed Guidelines for its implementation and Regulations covering legal assistance in disciplinary proceedings. Whilst any new Discipline Act will require to be sent to Presbyteries under Barrier Act procedure, given the extremely wide and fruitful consultation on its development over the last three years and the even more acute need for new legislation to speed up the Church's disciplinary processes, the Committee would intend to propose to next year's Assembly that an Interim Act be passed in order that the beneficial effects of the new legislation may be felt throughout the Church at the earliest opportunity.

3. Amendment to the Unitary Constitution and Model Deed

3.1 The General Assembly of 2016 instructed the Committee to bring forward an amendment to the Unitary Constitution so that it would include reference to the requirement for the holding of a Stated Annual Meeting. The Solicitor has now made an appropriate amendment to Clause Tenth, as detailed in Appendix C, and this has been approved by the Delegation of the General Assembly.

3.2 The Committee has noted that the Model Deed also lacks any direct reference to the accounts being received at a Stated Annual Meeting. Although new Model Deeds are no longer being issued, in the interests of consistency the Committee has agreed that a similar amendment should be made. Unlike the Unitary Constitution, the Model Deed is contained in an Act of Assembly (Act II 1994) and an Amending Act is therefore required to make this change. This proposed amendment is also detailed in Appendix C.

3.3 It has also been noted that both the Model Deed and the Unitary Constitution refer, in their Clause Eighteenth, to an appeal to the General Assembly. In line with the Appeals Act (Act I 2014), such an appeal should of course now be heard by the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly. For the Unitary Constitution, the Solicitor has made the appropriate amendment and this has been approved by the Delegation of Assembly. For the Model Deed, the appropriate amendment is contained in the amending Act which is set out in Appendix C. In making this amendment, the opportunity has also been taken to align the wording of Clause Eighteenth of the Model Deed with that of the Unitary Constitution, the Model Deed wording having referred to the need to obtain a Procurator's certificate as to the suitability of the appeal. This has been little used and it is preferable that the two sets of wording conform.

4. Review of Arbitration in Relation to Buildings

4.1 The General Assembly of 2015 instructed the Legal Questions Committee, in consultation with the General Trustees, the Ministries Council and the Central Properties Department, to review the processes which are used in arbitration, taking account of the report of the Panel on Review and Reform on the issue of procedural justice.

4.2 Arbitration has typically been employed when readjustment has been taking place and when a Presbytery has felt unable to decide between church buildings. On such occasions, with the prior agreement of all parties, arbiters have undertaken an independent assessment of the properties and of the needs of the charge, and have issued a binding decision in relation to which building(s) should be used.

4.3 While initial discussions focused on the procedures that are followed in arbitration, questions were subsequently raised about whether arbitration should continue to be used at all. Arbitration was a helpful tool when parish reappraisal was being undertaken in accordance with Act IV 1984. However, the legislative

framework which governs readjustment changed significantly with the enactment of Act VII 2003. Therefore the question of whether arbitration should have a continuing role still requires to be addressed.

4.4 The most significant change introduced by Act VII 2003 was the requirement for a Presbytery Plan to be in place. As part of this planning process a Presbytery is required to make a specific declaration about the anticipated future requirement for each ecclesiastical building. Despite this, the Panel of Arbiters has continued to be deployed on occasion, most commonly when a Basis of Union or Linking has been drafted. This is very much contrary to the intentions of Act VII 2003, since decisions about the categorisation of buildings ought properly to be taken in advance, through the formulation of the Presbytery Plan.

4.5 The Committee is of the view that the ongoing use of arbitration can lead to confusion and misunderstandings. Furthermore, the continuing availability of arbitration may be discouraging or delaying Presbyteries from making the decisions that they themselves ought to take when formulating their Presbytery Plans. The Committee therefore recommends that the procedure of arbitration should now be discontinued and that the Panel of Arbiters should be dissolved.

4.6 If arbitration is discontinued account needs to be taken of those existing Bases of Adjustment which refer to arbitration being used. An instruction is therefore sought to have Presbyteries identify such situations and instead to make any such choices between buildings themselves as part of the Presbytery Planning process.

4.7 The Church should be grateful for the service that has been given by those who have served on the Panel of Arbiters. When Presbyteries resolve issues concerning the categorisation of buildings as part of the appraisal and planning exercise, there is much that they can learn from the examples of good practice that have been employed by the Panel of Arbiters. It is, therefore, proposed that the General Trustees should work with the Central Properties

Department with a view to compiling a guidance document to help Presbyteries undertake this work.

5. Presbytery Review

5.1 The General Assembly of 2016 instructed the Committee, jointly with the Council of Assembly and in consultation with Presbyteries, to explore the possibility of a Presbytery Review procedure which complements the process of Local Church Review and to report to the General Assembly of 2017.

5.2 At a meeting of representatives of the Committee and the Council it was agreed that there could be considerable benefits in having some form of Presbytery Review process. It was recognised that the following questions would need to be addressed:

- What form should a Review take and which aspects of a Presbytery's life should be covered?
- How frequently should such Reviews occur?
- Who should undertake the reviewing process?
- How would the findings of a Review be followed up?

5.3 As a first step, some draft Presbytery Review papers have been created by adapting material currently used to provide the framework for Local Church Review. These have been shared with the Presbytery Clerks' Forum and feedback has been received. Following further consultation with Presbytery Clerks, it is intended that four or five Presbyteries should be identified in order that a pilot process can be carried out. In the course of such pilots, the "volunteers" would act both as a reviewer and as a reviewee. It is hoped that this exercise may demonstrate the potential value of Presbytery Review and help to address the questions outlined above.

5.4 It is hoped that a report on the pilot process can be brought to next year's General Assembly. At the same time it may be possible to seek Assembly approval for principles which could then be used to shape an ongoing Presbytery Review process.

6. Review of the Ministry Act and the Church Courts Act

6.1 The General Assembly of 2016 instructed the Committee, together with the Ministries Council, to review the Ministry Act (Act II 2000) and the Church Courts Act (Act III 2000) in relation to membership of Presbytery. This instruction recognised that Presbytery membership is closely inter-related with the current system of Practising Certificates, but that the latter would be repealed in the event of the Registration of Ministries Overture ("the Overture") being enacted.

6.2 The Report of the Committee on Returns to Overtures outlines the consequential amendments which will be made to various Acts of Assembly if the Overture is passed. These include immediate amendments to be made, both to the Ministry Act and to the Church Courts Act, to ensure that the various pieces of legislation remain compatible and that the terminology used across them is as consistent as possible.

6.3 Having undertaken this initial review, the Committee and the Ministries Council intend to give further consideration to both pieces of legislation.

6.4 The Ministry Act (Act II 2000)

6.4.1 If enacted, the Overture will repeal all existing provisions relating to Practising Certificates and as a consequence, the Ministry Act will be considerably shortened. The remaining prescriptions in the Ministry Act will no longer have any bearing on the issue of Presbytery membership.

6.4.2 However, what is left of this Act will contain a rather untidy range of provisions. In particular, there would seem to be a logical disconnect between the early sections relating to ordination (which are relevant for a variety of ministries) and the later sections on parish practice (which relate to one specific form of ministry, being exercised in a particular context).

6.4.3 For the sake of clarity, the Committee recommends that this legislation should now be revised. In particular,

consideration should be given to separating the aspects which relate to ordination from those which relate to parish ministry. The prescriptions on ordination might usefully be consolidated with those in the Ordination of Professors and Lecturers Act (Act VII 2010) and those in the Presbytery Ordination Act (Act III 2004). The Committee seeks authority to pursue this further, with a view to bringing revised legislation to a future General Assembly.

6.4.4 A small amendment is proposed to section 31 of Act II 2000, to clarify the basis upon which a minister may engage in secular employment. This is to add the words "apply for, accept or" immediately prior to the word "undertake" in that section. The appropriate amending Act is set out in Appendix D.

6.5 The Church Courts Act (Act III 2000)

6.5.1 When considering how issues of Presbytery membership relate to Practising Certificates, wider questions have arisen about what it means for any ordained person to serve as a member of a Church court. In many ways the current law of the Church focuses on 'entitlements' to membership, rather than reflecting the 'duties and responsibilities' that ought to accompany such membership.

6.5.2 The returns submitted by Presbyteries in relation to the Overture included comments to the effect that any individual who holds Presbytery membership ought to be involved in the work of the Presbytery in a "*positive and active manner*". It was argued that this is nothing less than the fulfilment of vows taken at ordination.

6.5.3 While the Church has ecclesiological reasons for establishing the polity of its courts, nevertheless it should not be blind to any duties of trusteeship which are required under Civil Law. It is a matter of concern if charity trustees fail to attend meetings of the relevant governing body. In this regard it should be noted that members of Kirk Sessions all serve as charity trustees and that members of Presbyteries are also all trustees, in cases where the Presbytery is a registered charity.

6.5.4 Some informal soundings have been taken from Presbytery Clerks through the work of the Presbytery Clerks' Forum. Presbytery Clerks identified a number of issues which might constructively be considered in relation to the membership and operation of Church courts. The Committee is satisfied that there is sufficient interest for a wider review to be undertaken of the Church Courts Act.

6.5.5 The Committee now seeks approval to undertake a consultation exercise, inviting submissions to be made before the end of October 2017. A questionnaire would be made available on the Church website and Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions would be encouraged to respond. In the light of this consultation exercise the Committee will report to the 2018 Assembly and may present revised legislation.

7. Review of the Admission and Readmission of Ministers Act (Act IX 2002)

7.1 The General Assembly of 2016 instructed the Committee, together with the Ministries Council, to review the Admission and Readmission of Ministers Act (Act IX 2002) in the light of the proposed Registration of Ministries Act and to report to the Assembly of 2017.

7.2 In the course of initial discussions it has been recognised that some aspects of the work of the proposed Registration of Ministries Committee would be similar to those of the Ministries Council's Recruitment Task Group, especially when the latter is considering applications for readmission. Both bodies are required to determine what, if any, familiarisation and updating are required, before an individual returns to parish ministry after a period of absence.

7.3 The Committee and the Council are therefore of a mind that certain aspects of the work of readmission could, in time, logically be transferred to the Registration of Ministries Committee. There is little point in duplicating

work or running parallel processes which are intended to achieve fairly similar outcomes.

7.4 Nevertheless, if the Registration of Ministries Overture is enacted, then it will be important for the Registration of Ministries Committee to commence its work as currently outlined. The Registration of Ministries Committee will need to develop its systems of application and assessment with a view to undertaking its work in a fair and consistent manner. The Committee and the Ministries Council intend to keep this matter under review, with a view possibly to revising some of the work of readmissions at a future date.

8. Justice Committee Inquiry into the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service

8.1 The Committee keeps a watching brief on issues which arise when internal disciplinary cases are being handled by the Church. Occasionally such cases overlap with proceedings that are being conducted elsewhere, for example if a police investigation and/or criminal prosecution is taking place. The Committee has observed that there can often be significant delays in the criminal justice system which can have a detrimental impact on the individuals involved in such situations. While the number of such cases involving Church personnel is small, the Church's own experiences nevertheless provide a useful glimpse of the wider picture.

8.2 The Scottish Parliament's Justice Committee has been undertaking an inquiry into the role and purpose of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service. The Committee has made a submission to this Inquiry, highlighting some of the failings which have been perceived in the system. The Justice Committee's report is likely to have been published by the time of the General Assembly.

9. Updated Manual on Church Law

9.1 The Committee is aware that the Church's official manuals on Church Law are now very out of date. Many

changes have taken place since the publication of *'The Constitution and Laws of the Church of Scotland'* in 1997. Furthermore the Church's later online resource *'An Introduction to Practice and Procedure in the Church of Scotland'* was last updated in 2008 and has since been withdrawn from the website.

9.2 The Committee is pleased to report that measures are now being taken to update *'The Constitution and Laws of the Church of Scotland'* and that this will be made available in electronic form. The Committee is grateful to Mrs Janette Wilson, the former Solicitor of the Church, who has agreed to undertake this task.

10. Brexit

10.1 It has yet to become clear what the implications of Brexit might be for the country, far less so for the Church. The Committee is keeping a watching brief on this matter from a legal perspective. As part of this, along with a representative of the Church and Society Council, the Convener attended a round table discussion for faith groups, with Lord Bridges (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union), which was hosted by the Church of England.

11. Examination of Records

11.1 In accordance with the arrangements set in place by the General Assembly of 2000 the Legal Questions Committee has examined the relevant records of Assembly Councils and Committees. These have been found, generally, to be in order, with suggestions for improvements, in consistency of pagination and other minor matters, being made to the Convener and Secretary of each Council and Committee.

In the name of the Committee

GEORGE S COWIE, *Convener*
ALISTAIR MAY, *Vice-Convener*
JOHN P CHALMERS, *Secretary*

ADDENDUM

The Very Rev Dr John P Chalmers

The Very Rev Dr John P Chalmers has served as Secretary to the Legal Questions Committee since his appointment as Principal Clerk in 2010. In view of John's forthcoming retiral, the Committee wishes to acknowledge his service and also to express our gratitude for the commitment and personal gifts that he has brought to this role.

Much of the Committee's work involves the drafting of legislation, which then governs how the practical work of the Church is carried out in local situations. We have benefited greatly from John's understanding of the Church at all levels and from the personal insights that he has brought in relation to the issues which arise at grass roots level. John has a very good understanding of people and by communicating with them personally has often been able to move matters forward in helpful and constructive ways. We are conscious that John's work with the Legal Questions Committee has simply been one of the many facets of his work.

The office of Principal Clerk is invariably shaped by the personality of the individual appointed. The Committee appreciates the humanity, warmth and good humour which have marked John's tenure of this role.

In the name of the Committee

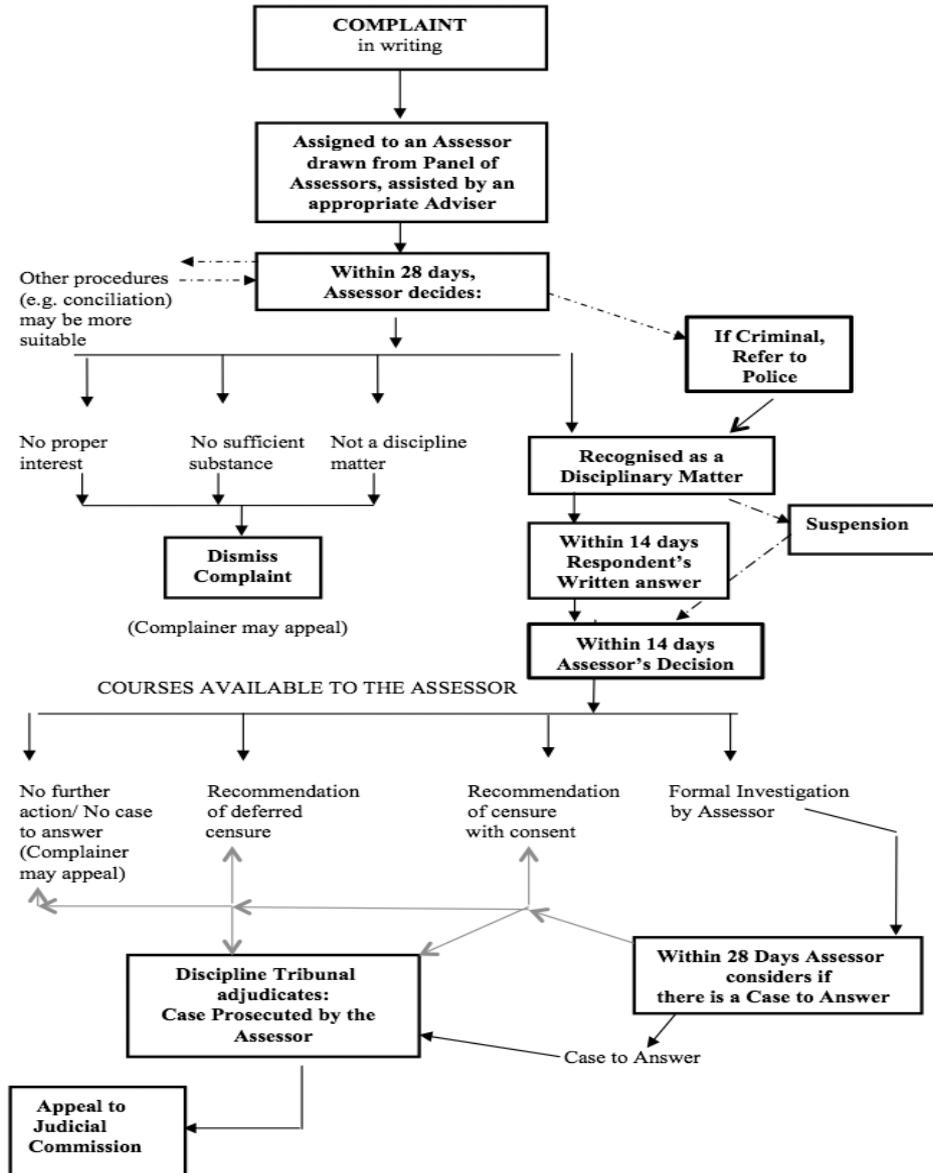
GEORGE S COWIE, *Convener*
ALISTAIR MAY, *Vice-Convener*

APPENDIX A

The relevant part of Standing Order 95(i) will read:

- i. COMMITTEES Convener giving in the Report of his or her Committee and moving thereon (seconding to be formal) 15 minutes

APPENDIX B



APPENDIX C

Clauses Tenth and Eighteenth of the Unitary Constitution as they now appear, ie as amended by the Solicitor and approved by the Delegation of Assembly:

"Tenth The Session shall ensure the provisions of the Congregational Finance Regulations (Regulations II 2016) as amended by the General Assembly from time to time are fully complied with. In particular, the Session shall ensure that the Congregational Accounts are received by the Congregation at its Annual Meeting, such Meeting to be held not later than the 30th day of June following the financial year-end date."

"Eighteenth If any question shall arise with reference to the interpretation of any Article of this Constitution or the legality of any particular exercise of the powers herein contained, it shall be competent for any person or body interested to apply by Petition to the Presbytery to adjudicate upon the matter and the judgment of the Presbytery upon such matter or upon any question arising in connection with the annual independent examination or audit provided for in Article Fifth hereof shall be final, subject only to appeal against the decision of the Presbytery to the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly in accordance with the Appeals Act (Act I 2014)."

Proposed amending Act to Act II 1994:

ACT AMENDING THE MODEL DEEDS OF CONSTITUTION ACT (ACT II 1994)

Edinburgh, [] May 2017, Session []

The General Assembly hereby enact and ordain that the Model Deeds of Constitution Act (Act II 1994), as amended, shall be further amended as follows:

1. *In the Annexation, the existing Clause Thirteenth shall be deleted and the following shall be substituted:*
"Thirteenth, The Board, acting with the Session,

shall ensure that the provisions of the Congregational Finance Regulations (Regulations II 2016) as amended by the General Assembly from time to time are fully complied with. In particular, the Board and Session shall ensure that the Congregational Accounts are received by the Congregation at its Annual Meeting, such Meeting to be held not later than the 30th day of June following the financial year-end date."

2. *In the Annexation, the existing Clause Eighteenth shall be deleted and the following shall be substituted:*

"Eighteenth, If any question shall arise with reference to the election of the Board, or as to the interpretation of any Article of this Constitution or as to the legality of any particular exercise of the powers herein contained, it shall be competent for any person or body interested to apply by Petition to the Presbytery to adjudicate upon the matter, and the judgement of the Presbytery upon such matter, or upon any question arising in connection with the annual audit provided for in Article Thirteenth hereof shall be final, subject only to appeal against the decision of the Presbytery to the Appeals Committee of the Commission of Assembly in accordance with the Appeals Act (Act I 2014)."

APPENDIX D

ACT AMENDING THE MINISTRY ACT (ACT II 2000)

Edinburgh, [] May 2017, Session []

The General Assembly hereby enact and ordain that the Ministry Act (Act II 2000), as amended, shall be further amended as follows:

1. *In section 31, the words "apply for, accept or" shall be inserted immediately prior to the word "undertake".*