INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS IN 2027

NAME OF STANDING COMMITTEE/AGENCY: Presbytery Review Committee	
CONVENER/CHAIR:	Rev Moira McDonald
VICE-CONVENER(S):	Catherine Coull
SECRETARY:	Rev Dr Victoria Linford

REMIT:

- To be responsible for Presbytery Review through a flexible five-year cycle in which two or three Presbyteries are reviewed each year by a Review Group which reports back to the Committee.
- Provide a Summary Report to the GA for Presbytery Reviews carried out each year.
- To be satisfied that:
  - each Presbytery Review is thorough and forward looking;
  - good practice is highlighted and shared across the Church;
  - problems are faced and tackled with appropriate support and input; and
  - non-compliance is addressed and rectified.
- Inspect annually the records of Presbyteries.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE SOUGHT AT THIS TIME:

There are a number of in-person visits to be made to different presbyteries, so an ability and willingness to travel would be desirable, although that would be limited to once or perhaps twice per year.

We seek to offer help and support, a reflection of Presbytery life, rather than a fault finding or trouble shooting attitude.

EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS:

To meet online with the whole committee five or so times a year.

For the subgroups carrying out the reviews, there are a number of in-person visits once or perhaps twice a year. In addition to these visits, time is needed to give detailed consideration to information received from Presbyteries and make comments as appropriate, in liaison with other members of the committee.

These in-person Presbytery visits, however, are not necessary for those on the Inspection of Records subgroup. The main work of the Inspection of Records Subgroup will also be in the autumn and will be carried out online.

MEMBERSHIP AND ANTICIPATED VACANCIES:

A Convener, Vice-Convener and eleven members nominated by the Nomination Committee and appointed by the General Assembly, together with ex officio the Principal Clerk and the Depute Clerk. In making nominations to the Committee, the Nomination Committee shall seek to ensure a balance of ministers, elders and members on the Committee, and also shall aim for geographical balance. Membership of the Committee shall include persons with considerable experience of Presbytery life, of Church life, of regulatory functions, of charity governance, of Church law,

practice and procedure and of the operation of Church courts. Appointments shall be for a three-year term with some initial appointments being of shorter terms to stagger those stepping down from the Committee in future years. No current employee of a Presbytery shall be a member of the Committee or co-opted onto a Review Group.

It is anticipated that there will be a Vice-Convener vacancy and three member vacancies to be filled with a start date of June 2027.

FREQUENCY, TIMING AND VENUE OF MEETINGS:
Meetings tend to be online, with one in person during the course of the year, at a time that suits the majority of members.

DETAILS OF SUB-COMMITTEES/GROUPS:
Sub groups tasked with being in touch with and visiting Presbyteries are asked to work around the timetable of the Presbytery to be visited – usually in the autumn of each year, with further meetings and conversations leading up toward Christmas. Report writing takes place in the early part of the year in order to comply with the General Assembly timeline.

FURTHER DETAILS:
Appendix A - Legal Questions Committee Report 2024