

XIII ADMISSION AND READMISSION OF MINISTERS ACT (ACT XIII 2022)

Edinburgh, 24 May 2022, Session 8

The General Assembly hereby enact and ordain as follows:

PART A – DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

Definitions

1. In this Act the following definitions apply:
 - (a) “Admission” means the process of making an application to be admitted to Ministry in the Church of Scotland from a person who has not previously held a post in Ministry in the Church of Scotland.
 - (b) “Admissions Applicant” means a person who is seeking to be recognised as an Admissions Candidate.
 - (c) “Admissions Candidate” means a person who has been accepted at an Admissions Conference or Admissions Panel.
 - (d) “Admissions Conference” means a conference of trained Assessors to which the Forum delegates authority to assess the fitness of applicants for Ministry in the Church of Scotland.
 - (e) “Admissions Panel” means a panel of trained Assessors to which the Forum delegates authority to assess transfer from Temporary to Standard Certificates.
 - (f) “Certificate of Eligibility” means one of the Certificates referred to in section 12 below.
 - (g) “Certificate Holder” means a person who has received a Certificate of Eligibility.
 - (h) “Familiarisation Placement” means a placement as described in section 11 below.
 - (i) “the Forum” means the General Assembly’s Faith Nurture Forum responsible for recruitment, selection and training for Ministry.
 - (j) “Ministry” means a post which is commensurate with the requirements for Category O in the Registration of Ministry Act (Act II 2017).
 - (k) “Ordinand” means a person who has completed all requirements for training for ministry in their own denomination and who is eligible for ordination in that denomination but who has not yet been ordained there.
 - (l) “Readmission” means the process of making an application to be readmitted to Ministry in the Church of Scotland from a person who has previously held a post in Ministry in the Church of Scotland.
 - (m) “Readmissions Panel” means a panel of trained Assessors to which the Forum delegates authority to assess Readmission.
 - (n) “UK State Pension Age” means the age at which a person, had they been a UK citizen, would reach UK State Pension Age as determined at the relevant time by the UK Government’s calculations.¹
2. Wherever a matter referred to in this Act is within the discretion of the Forum, that decision may be delegated, whether to staff or suitably qualified persons, as the Forum sees fit.

Part B - ADMISSION

Pre assessment of eligibility

3. (1) A person wishing to be admitted to Ministry in the Church of Scotland from another denomination shall submit to the Forum a Pre Assessment Form (supplied for completion on initial contact with the Forum), together with their

¹ *Ascertained currently by the calculator found on the gov.uk website*

current curriculum vitae and academic transcripts of subjects studied in their theological degree, to enable the Forum to assess their suitability and equivalency of academic qualification.

- (2) In addition:
 - (a) a person who has been ordained in their own denomination shall supply their Ordination Certificate to enable assessment of whether or not their ordination is recognised by the Church of Scotland for the purpose of Admission, and
 - (b) a person who is an Ordinand in their own denomination shall supply information to verify the completion of their academic training, their Church completed placements/probation and their current eligibility for ordination in their own denomination.
- (3) The person shall thereafter be advised by the Forum whether or not they are eligible to make an Application in terms of sections 4 & 5. The Forum's decision on this is final and there is no right of appeal.

Denominational and age limits

4. (1) The Forum will accept applications from ordained ministers and Ordinands from denominations belonging to the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) or the Church of England (in terms of the Columba Declaration). Applications from those in other denominations may be considered on an exceptional basis.
- (2) The Forum will not consider an application for a Standard Certificate of Eligibility from any person who in all normal circumstances could not complete the requirements for a Certificate of Eligibility before 31 December in the year which is ten years before the calendar year in which that person will reach the age which would be their UK State Pension Age.
- (3) In the case of a Temporary or Restricted Certificate of Eligibility, an application will not be considered from any person who in all normal circumstances could not complete the requirements for such a Certificate of Eligibility before 31 December in the year which is three years before the calendar year in which that person will reach the age which would be their UK State Pension Age.

Application for Admission

5. (1) If the person satisfies the requirements of sections 3 & 4, the person may then make an application to the Forum for Admission.
- (2) Such a person shall complete the application form prescribed by the Forum, including any self-declaration(s) and shall send it to the Forum along with the required accompanying documentation and payment of the appropriate fee(s), all by the date determined and supplied by the Forum.
- (3) The application shall give full particulars as to the person's age, present Church connection, educational curriculum, ministerial career and other employment, together with a statement indicating the reasons for the person's wish to be admitted to Ministry in the Church of Scotland. The application shall be accompanied by all the documents (originals, extracts or copies) necessary in the opinion of the Forum to substantiate the facts set forth, and shall include the names of three referees.
- (4) If English is not the person's first language, he or she shall also complete such evaluation(s) as the Forum may require as to their linguistic proficiency.

- (5) If the necessary visa to exercise Ministry in the Church of Scotland cannot be obtained at any time, the application may not proceed. All visa fees shall be the responsibility of the applicant.
- (6) All persons making application shall also be subject to a criminal record check.
- (7) The person shall thereafter be advised by the Forum whether or not their application can proceed to the next stage under section 6. The Forum's decision on this is final and there is no right of appeal.

Initial Online Assessment

6. (1) Following application under section 5, a person who is accepted by the Forum to proceed to the stage of Initial Online Assessment shall be known as an Admissions Applicant.
- (2) An Admissions Applicant shall take part in an Initial Online Assessment arranged by the Forum.
- (3) The Initial Online Assessment shall take place on a date supplied to the Admissions Applicant and shall assess the Admissions Applicant's Call, doctrine and gifts. Following the Initial Online Assessment, a decision shall be made by the Forum as to whether or not the Admissions Applicant may proceed in terms of section 7 to Full Assessment at an Admissions Conference in Scotland.
- (4) An Admissions Applicant who is not accepted at Initial Online Assessment must wait a minimum period of one year, as notified to that person by the Forum, before they may again participate in an Initial Online Assessment under this section 6.
- (5) The outcome of each Initial Online Assessment shall be final and not subject to any form of review or appeal, save as set out in section 9 below.

Full Assessment at an Admissions Conference

7. (1) A person who is deemed ready to proceed after an Initial Online Assessment may undertake Full Assessment at an Admissions Conference.
- (2) An Admissions Conference shall normally be a residential in-person conference held in Scotland, but the Forum reserves the right to hold an Admissions Conference online should circumstances make this necessary or desirable.
- (3) A fee shall be payable by the Admissions Applicant in order to reserve a place at an Admissions Conference, and this fee shall be refundable on attendance. Travel costs are payable by the Admissions Applicant.
- (4) At an Admissions Conference there shall be careful consideration of the Admissions Applicant's character and beliefs, vocation, motivation and general suitability. Following the Admissions Conference, a decision shall be made as to whether or not the Admissions Applicant should be accepted as an Admissions Candidate.
- (5) All Admissions Applicants who attend an Admissions Conference shall receive notification of the decision taken at the Admissions Conference in terms of sub-section (4) and feedback on the reasons for the decision.

Opportunities to become an Admissions Candidate

8. (1) A person applying under this Act shall have three opportunities in total to progress through Initial Online Assessment and Admissions Conference to become an Admissions Candidate. Each time the person is not accepted shall count as one "non-accept" decision. Once a total of three "non-accept" decisions have occurred, no further entry into the Admission process, at any stage, will be possible for that person. A person will however have rights of appeal as set out in section 9 below.

- (2) Following a “non-accept” decision at any stage, a person must wait for the period specified by the Forum, being a minimum period of one year, before being assessed again.
- (3) After any “non-accept” decision at any stage, a person who chooses to re-enter the Admission process shall start again at section 3, ie at the stage of Pre-assessment of eligibility.

Appeals

9. (1) An Admissions Applicant shall have the right to appeal to the Ministries Appeal Panel as follows:
 - (a) following a third “non-accept” decision, whether that is at Initial Online Assessment or Admissions Conference, or
 - (b) following a first or second “non-accept” decision where the person would thereafter be age-barred in terms of section 4(3) from pursuing a fresh application for Admission.

For the avoidance of doubt, in no other circumstances shall an appeal shall be possible after a first or second “non-accept” decision.
- (2) Notification of the intention to appeal shall be made to the Forum and to the Principal Clerk within 14 days of the date upon which the decision of the Initial Online Assessment or of the Admissions Conference, as the case may be, was intimated to the Admissions Applicant.
- (3) At the Appeal Hearing the Admissions Applicant shall be entitled to appear either online or in person, as determined by the Forum, and to address the Panel. He or she may be accompanied by a companion, who shall not be entitled to speak to the Panel, but who may confer with the Admissions Applicant. A representative of the Forum shall also appear to present the case for the decision under appeal. All parties will be in possession of the reports from the Initial Online Assessment and/or the Admissions Conference, as the case may be.
- (4) An appeal to the Ministries Appeal Panel can only be brought on one or more of the following grounds: (a) that in the course of the Initial Online Assessment or Admissions Conference there were irregularities in the process, (b) that the final decision of the Initial Online Assessment or Admissions Conference was influenced by incorrect material fact, or (c) that the Initial Online Assessment or Admissions Conference acted contrary to the principles of natural justice.
- (5) The outcome of an appeal shall be either to uphold the decision of the Initial Online Assessment or the Admissions Conference, as the case may be, or to annul that decision, in which case sub-sections (6) and (7) below will apply.
- (6) If the outcome of the appeal is to annul a decision, whether at Initial Online Assessment or Admissions Conference, the person shall be treated as if they had not attended that Initial Online Assessment or Admissions Conference, as the case may be, and shall be entitled to enter the Admission process again on one occasion only at the stage of attending one further Initial Online Assessment (and, if accepted there, one further Admissions Conference) or Admissions Conference, as the case may be. Such re-entry into the process must commence within one year of the appeal decision and shall be permitted notwithstanding the terms of sections 4(2) and 4(3) of this Act. Any further “non-accept” decision on that next occasion at either stage shall terminate that person’s eligibility to enter the Admission process under this Act and there shall be no further right of appeal.
- (7) If the outcome of the appeal is to uphold the decision of the Initial Online Assessment or the Admissions Conference, as the case may be, that shall terminate the Admission process for that person and they may not re-enter into it at any time.

Medical Assessment

10. (1) A person who is accepted as an Admissions Candidate shall, following Admissions Conference, undergo a medical assessment in the form prescribed by the Forum and may only proceed as an Admissions Candidate if that assessment is, in the opinion of the Forum, satisfactory. The Forum's decision shall be final.
- (2) If the medical assessment is unsatisfactory, the Admissions Candidate shall lose their status as such. The person may choose to apply again under this Act, in which event they shall commence at section 3, and subject always to the provisions of section 8, and provided always that the person must wait for the period prescribed by the Forum, being a minimum period of one year. In this situation the person must consent to undergoing a further medical assessment prior to making the new application at section 3 and that assessment must be satisfactory in the opinion of the Forum in order for the application to proceed. An unsatisfactory medical assessment on that occasion shall mean that no further entry into the Admission process is possible for that person.

Familiarisation Placement/Probationary placement

11. (1) Following a satisfactory medical assessment in terms of section 10(1) above, the Admissions Candidate will enter a Familiarisation Placement assigned by the Forum, or in the case of an Admissions Candidate who is an Ordinand, shall enter into a fifteen-month full-time probationary placement undertaken according to the provisions of section 17 to 22 of the Selection and Training for Full-Time Ministry Act (Act X 2004).
- (2) An Admissions Candidate must commence their Familiarisation Placement within three years of becoming an Admissions Candidate, failing which their status as an Admissions Candidate shall cease. If a matter which would constitute a material breach of the Terms and Conditions document referred to in section 11(4), had that been signed, comes to the attention of the Forum in the period between acceptance as an Admissions Candidate and commencement of the Familiarisation Placement, the Forum may advise the Admissions Candidate that they have been removed from the Admissions process under this Act and shall not be entitled to reapply. There shall be no right of appeal against such a decision.
- (3) During a Familiarisation Placement, the Admissions Candidate will work under the supervision of a Supervisor. The Familiarisation Placement shall last for a period of twelve months, subject always to sub-section 11(12) below. A proportion of minimum stipend will be payable during the Familiarisation Placement, but the Admissions Candidate will be responsible for locating and funding their own accommodation during this time.
- (4) At the start of the Familiarisation Placement the Admissions Candidate shall enter into a Terms and Conditions document in the form prescribed by the Forum.
- (5) The Supervisor for the Familiarisation Placement will be chosen by the Forum. The Supervisor shall undertake such training for the role as may from time to time be specified by the Forum. The Supervisor shall be responsible for supervising the Familiarisation Placement according to the guidelines and standards established by the Forum.

- (6) During the Familiarisation Placement the Admissions Candidate shall undertake such courses as may be prescribed by the Forum in Scottish Church History, Church Law and Safeguarding.
- (7) During the Familiarisation Placement an Admissions Candidate may be invited by the Presbytery within which lies the charge or appointment where his or her Familiarisation Placement is proceeding, to become a corresponding member of that Presbytery.
- (8) After six months, the Forum shall undertake an interim review of the Admissions Candidate according to the Terms and Conditions document.
- (9) After nine months the Forum shall undertake a final review of the Admissions Candidate according to the Terms and Conditions document. At that point a decision shall be made as to sustain, extend or not sustain the Familiarisation Placement.
- (10) If the Familiarisation Placement is sustained and provided the Admissions Candidate has completed the necessary courses in terms of section 11(6), the Admissions Candidate may commence applying for charges or appointments. At the completion of the full Familiarisation Placement, the candidate shall be entitled to receive a Certificate of Eligibility of the type determined by the Forum. Such a person shall thereafter be known as a Certificate Holder.
- (11) It shall be competent for the Forum to refuse to sustain a Familiarisation Placement, or to terminate a Familiarisation Placement in the event of a material breach of the Terms and Conditions document which was entered into between the Admissions Candidate and the Forum in terms of section 11(4). There shall be no appeal against such a decision but a written explanation shall be provided to the Admissions Candidate in question. Such a person shall be removed from the Admission process under this Act and shall not be entitled to reapply.
- (12) Exceptionally a Familiarisation Placement may be extended at the instigation of the Forum, on a month by month basis, for a maximum period of up to three months to allow the Admissions Candidate to be inducted to a charge or take up an appointment.
- (13) Exceptionally, where in the opinion of the Forum there is sufficient evidence of rooted and recent experience of ministry in the Church of Scotland, the Forum may decide that an Admissions Candidate need not complete a Familiarisation Placement and the Forum may instead immediately grant to that person a Certificate of Eligibility of the type determined by the Forum subject to a mentoring arrangement, such mentoring arrangement to be put in place by the relevant Presbytery.

Certificates of Eligibility

12. The types of certificate which may be issued by the Forum under this Act are:

- (a) a "Standard Certificate of Eligibility" entitles the holder to apply for charges and appointments in Ministry in the Church of Scotland. Admission to the status of minister of the Church of Scotland shall take effect at the point of admission to membership of Presbytery, which, in the case of an Ordinand, shall involve ordination. Certificates of Eligibility shall be valid for three years from the date of issue.
- (b) a "Temporary Certificate of Eligibility" entitles the holder to apply for charges and appointments in Ministry in the Church of Scotland, but to hold any such post for

an initial period of three years only. The following shall also apply to the holder of such a Certificate:

- (i) The Certificate shall entitle the holder to hold a post for period of three years provided that post commences within three years of the date on which the Temporary Certificate of Eligibility is granted.
 - (ii) At the request of the Kirk Session/employer, and with the concurrence of the Presbytery and the Forum, the initial period of three years may be extended for one further period of not more than three years.
 - (iii) The holder, if inducted to a charge, shall be granted a seat in Presbytery.
 - (iv) The holder shall retain status as a minister in their denomination of origin. Admission to the status of minister of the Church of Scotland shall only take effect if the holder makes application to the Forum for such status. The age limit specified in section 5(3) shall apply save that an allowance shall be made for service already rendered. Such an application shall be considered at an Admissions Panel and the paperwork considered shall be as specified by the Forum, to include an application form and references. At least one reference shall be provided from a person with knowledge of the holder's current post.
 - (v) Any employment contract which the holder enters into shall have a condition that it is an essential requirement for the person to hold a Temporary Certificate of Eligibility and without it the employment shall cease.
 - (vi) The holder of a Temporary Certificate of Eligibility whose Certificate expires without him or her having successfully applied to be admitted to the status of minister of the Church of Scotland shall have no further right to apply for or be inducted to a charge or appointed to a post in Ministry in the Church of Scotland.
- (c) a "Restricted Certificate of Eligibility" entitles the holder to apply for a specified charge within the Presbytery of International Charges and that on the basis of the holder being introduced to the charge for an initial period of three years only, subject to the following provisions:
- (i) The Certificate shall entitle the holder to hold a post for a period of three years provided that post commences within six months of the date on which the Restricted Certificate of Eligibility is granted.
 - (ii) At the request of the Kirk Session and with the concurrence of the Presbytery of International Charges and the Forum, the initial period of three years may be extended for one further period of not more than three years.
 - (iii) The holder shall sign the Formula upon being introduced to the post and shall thereafter be granted a seat in Presbytery.
 - (iv) The holder shall retain status as a minister in their denomination of origin. Admission to the status of minister of the Church of Scotland shall only take effect if the holder makes application to the Forum for such status under the Church's normal process of admission in terms of this Act and satisfactorily completes same, though the applicant's service in the Presbytery of International Charges shall be taken into account in determining what Familiarisation Placement might be required. The age limit specified in section 4(3) shall apply save that an allowance shall be made for service already rendered.
 - (v) Any contract which the holder enters into in the Presbytery of International Charges shall have a condition that it is an essential requirement for the person to hold a Restricted Certificate of Eligibility and without it the contract shall cease.

- (d) An “OLM Certificate of Eligibility” entitles the holder to serve in the Church of Scotland in accordance with the provisions of the Ordained Local Ministry Act (Act IX 2011).

PART C - READMISSION

Application for Readmission

- 13. (1) A person wishing to be readmitted to Ministry in the Church of Scotland shall complete the application form prescribed by the Forum, including any self-declaration(s) and shall send it to the Forum along with the required accompanying documentation, their current curriculum vitae, their ordination certificates for the Church of Scotland and for their current denomination (if any), and proof of status in their current denomination (if any), all by the date determined and supplied by the Forum.
- (2) The application shall give full particulars as to the person's age, present Church connection, educational curriculum, ministerial career and other employment, together with a statement indicating the reasons for the person having demitted status in the Church of Scotland and the reasons for their wish to be readmitted to Ministry in the Church of Scotland. The application shall be accompanied by all the documents (originals, extracts or copies) necessary in the opinion of the Forum to substantiate the facts set forth, and shall include the names of three referees.
- (3) If the person requires a visa in order to exercise Ministry in the Church of Scotland and this cannot be obtained at any time, the application may not proceed. All visa fees shall be the responsibility of the applicant.
- (4) All persons making application shall also be subject to a criminal record check.
- (5) The person shall thereafter be advised by the Forum whether or not their application can proceed to a Readmissions Panel under section 14. The Forum's decision on this is final and there is no right of appeal.

Readmissions Panel

- 14. (1) Following application under section 13, a person who is accepted by the Forum to proceed to a Readmissions Panel arranged by the Forum shall be known as a Readmissions Applicant.
- (2) A Readmissions Panel shall normally be held in person in Scotland, but the Forum reserves the right to hold a Readmissions Panel online should circumstances make this necessary or desirable.
- (3) The Readmissions Panel shall take place on a date supplied to the Readmissions Applicant and shall assess the Readmissions Applicant's Call, doctrine and gifts/character and beliefs, vocation, motivation, general suitability, together with their reasons for having demitted status in the Church of Scotland and the reasons for their wish to be readmitted. The Readmissions Panel shall make a decision as to whether or not the Readmissions Applicant may be readmitted to Ministry in the Church of Scotland.
- (4) All Readmissions Applicants who attend a Readmissions Panel shall receive notification of the decision taken by the Readmissions Panel in terms of sub-section 14(3) and feedback on the reasons for the decision.
- (5) If the decision of the Readmissions Panel is that the Readmissions Applicant is to be readmitted to Ministry in the Church of Scotland, the Panel may additionally determine as follows:
 - (a) that the Readmissions Applicant will require to undergo a Familiarisation Placement and that the granting of a Certificate of Eligibility will be subject to satisfactory completion of that Placement, in which case section 11 shall apply amended as appropriate, or

(b) that the Readmissions Applicant will be granted a Certificate of Eligibility subject to a mentoring arrangement to be put in place by the relevant Presbytery; and declaring that both such decisions will be subject to a medical assessment in terms of section 17 below.

- (6) A Readmissions Applicant who is not accepted at a Readmissions Panel must wait a minimum period of one year, as notified to that person by the Forum, before they may again participate in a Readmissions Panel.

Opportunities to be accepted by a Readmissions Panel

15. (1) A person applying under this Act shall have three opportunities in total to be accepted by a Readmissions Panel. Each time the person is not accepted shall count as one “non-accept” decision. Once a total of three “non-accept” decisions have occurred, no further entry into the Readmission process, at any stage, will be possible for that person. A person will however have rights of appeal as set out in section 16 below.
- (2) Following a “non-accept” decision at any stage, a person must wait for the period specified by the Forum, being a minimum period of one year, before making application for Readmission again.
- (3) After a “non-accept” decision at a Readmissions Panel, a person who chooses to re-enter the Readmission process shall start again at section 13, ie at application stage.

Appeals

16. (1) A Readmissions Applicant shall have the right to appeal to the Ministries Appeal Panel following a third “non-accept” decision at Readmissions Panel. For the avoidance of doubt, no appeal shall be possible after a first or second “non-accept” decision.
- (2) Notification of the intention to appeal shall be made to the Forum and to the Principal Clerk within 14 days of the date upon which the decision of the Readmissions Panel was intimated to the Readmissions Applicant.
- (3) At the Appeal Hearing the Readmissions Applicant shall be entitled to appear either online or in person, as determined by the Forum, and to address the Panel. He or she may be accompanied by a companion, who shall not be entitled to speak to the Panel, but who may confer with the Readmissions Applicant. A representative of the Forum shall also appear to present the case for the decision under appeal. All parties will be in possession of the documents from the Readmissions Panel.
- (4) An appeal to the Ministries Appeal Panel can only be brought on one or more of the following grounds: (a) that in the course of the Readmissions Panel there were irregularities in the process, (b) that the final decision of the Readmissions Panel was influenced by incorrect material fact, or (c) that the Readmissions Panel acted contrary to the principles of natural justice.
- (5) The outcome of an appeal shall be either to uphold the decision of the Readmissions Panel, or to annul that decision, in which case sub-sections (6) and (7) below will apply.
- (6) If the outcome of the appeal is to annul a decision of the Readmissions Panel the person shall be treated as if they had not attended that Readmissions Panel and shall be entitled to attend only one further Readmission Panel and that within one year of the appeal decision. Any further “non-accept” decision on that next attendance shall terminate that person’s eligibility to enter the Readmission process under this Act and there shall be no further right of appeal.
- (7) If the outcome of the appeal is to uphold the decision of the Readmissions Panel, that shall terminate the Readmission process for that person and they may not re-enter into it at any time.

Medical Assessment

17. (1) A person who is accepted by a Readmissions Panel shall undergo a medical assessment in the form prescribed by the Forum and may only proceed to enter Ministry in the Church of Scotland (subject to section 14(5)) if that assessment is, in the opinion of the Forum, satisfactory. The Forum's decision shall be final.
- (2) If the medical assessment is unsatisfactory, the person may choose to apply again for Readmission under this Act, provided always that the person must wait for the period prescribed by the Forum, being a minimum period of one year. In this situation the person must consent to undergoing a further medical assessment prior to making the new application and that assessment must be satisfactory in the opinion of the Forum in order for the application to proceed. An unsatisfactory medical assessment on that occasion shall mean that no further entry into the Readmission process is possible for that person.

Type of Certificate

18. (1) A person who is readmitted into Ministry in the Church of Scotland following acceptance at a Readmissions Panel and subject always to sections 14(5) and 17(1) above, shall be granted a Standard Certificate of Eligibility.

Additional requirements where the person applying for Readmission has been previously judicially deprived of status

19. If a person has been previously judicially deprived of status as a Church of Scotland minister in terms of Act VII 1935, Act III 2001 or Act I 2019, all as amended, the following additional provisions shall apply in the Readmission process:
 - (1) At the application stage, the person must submit a statement as to why they were judicially deprived of status, how they have resolved the issues around their deprivation of status and why they wish to be readmitted to Ministry in the Church of Scotland.
 - (2) The Readmissions Panel shall be entitled to see and take account of the judicial documents relating to the deprivation of status.
 - (3) The Forum shall forward to the Presbytery of residence, or, in the case of an applicant who has not resided in Scotland for three months prior to the date of the application, to the Presbytery of Edinburgh, and also to any Presbytery within whose bounds the applicant was previously appointed as a minister, such documents as are reasonably required (which may include (a) a copy of the application in full and (b) copies of any documents obtained by the Forum) to enable the Presbytery or Presbyteries, as the case may be, to provide the Readmissions Panel with its/their opinion of the application.
 - (4) The Readmissions Panel shall then make its decision on the application in terms of section 14 and sections 15 to 18 may thereafter apply.

PART D – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Confidentiality

20. Each application and all procedure under this Act shall be taken in private by the Forum and by Presbyteries.

The Diaconate

21. The provisions of this Act shall apply, with necessary changes, to members of the diaconal ministry of the Church of Scotland and other Churches. The Forum shall be responsible for determining the interpretation of this Act consistently with the provisions of Act VIII 2010.

Repeals and Amendments

22. The Admission and Readmission of Ministers Act (Act IX 2002) shall be repealed on the date this Act comes into force, subject to section 24 below. Any references to Act IX 2002 in other Acts and Regulations of the General Assembly shall from that date be read as references to this Act.

Commencement date and transitional arrangements

23. This Act shall come into force on 24 May 2022.
24. Where a person is in a Familiarisation Placement as at 24 May 2022, such a person shall continue to be subject to the provisions of the Admission and Readmission of Ministers Act (Act IX 2002) until they have been granted a Certificate of Eligibility, or their application expires, whether due to refusal by the Forum to sustain their Familiarisation Placement or otherwise. All other applications for Admission or Readmission to Ministry in the Church of Scotland, whether new or ongoing, and whether such applications commence before or after 24 May 2022, shall from 24 May 2022 be dealt with under the provisions of this Act. Any disputes as to what that shall mean in practice for any particular person shall be resolved by the Forum and its decision as notified to the individual shall be final and not subject to any right of appeal.