



ADVICE FOR CIRCUITS WHICH ARE RECONFIGURING

The following advice is given by The Stationing Committee to circuits which are reconfiguring and need to consider the possible re-invitation of a minister or ministers from within one or more of the constituent circuits or to enter the stationing matching process for presbyters.. The advice is in line with current Standing Orders

1 The re-invitation process

Where circuits are reconfiguring, the Circuit Invitation Committee of the circuit in which the minister is stationed must carry out its work of consultation for any minister seeking a re-invitation and make its recommendation to its own Circuit Meeting, taking into account the needs of the new circuit in addition to the gifts and graces of the minister whose invitation is being considered. It should consult the Invitation Committee(s) of the other circuit(s) and anyone else in the other circuit(s) who would properly be consulted if the new circuit already existed. In each case the decision-making body is the Circuit Meeting of the minister's current circuit.

If the new circuit requires a minister or ministers to be stationed because an existing minister has not been re-invited or will move on, please see paragraph 2 below.

2 A vacancy arising from the departure of a minister or where a re-invitation has been declined and where existing circuit boundaries are not crossed

Subject to paragraph 3 below, where circuits are reconfiguring and a vacancy for the new circuit arises because a minister or ministers in the existing circuit(s) wish(es) to move on, or has/have not been re-invited, the Invitation Committee of the circuit(s) in which the departing minister or ministers was or were stationed must carry out its work and use its delegated powers or refer the matter to the Circuit Meeting to agree or decline a match made by the Matching Group. It would clearly be appropriate, however, for the profile to be agreed with the Invitation Committee of the other circuit(s) and for that/those circuit(s) to be fully consulted at all stages, including being represented when the Invitation Committee meets the minister who is matched with the circuit.

3 A vacancy arising from the departure of a minister where existing circuit boundaries are crossed.

Where circuits are reconfiguring and a vacancy for an appointment arising from the departure of a minister, crosses existing circuit boundaries or has a (new) circuit-wide focus, it would be good practice where possible for each Circuit Meeting to appoint an Invitation Committee with the same membership as the Invitation Committee appointed by the other circuit or circuits. That Committee should then write the circuit profile and its members should meet any minister matched with the new circuit. If it has delegated powers, it can then make the decision separately in the capacity of the Invitation Committee for each of the existing circuits; if not, it should make a recommendation separately to the relevant Circuit Meetings, for formal decision.

Existing Standing Orders do not permit shadow bodies (eg a shadow Circuit Meeting for the future combined circuit) to make these decisions, but it would be good practice for shadow bodies to be involved in the consultations as far as is practically possible.