

CLERGY HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

This Handbook is intended to give advice and guidance on working arrangements for all clergy holding the Bishop's licence. For those appointed as office-holders on Common Tenure (as defined in the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Regulations 2009) it also expands upon the obligations and rights conferred by the legislation.

The material in this document, whilst it may include some information on matters that are legally binding on clergy, lay ministers and other lay officers and volunteers, should be generally understood as guidance and for information unless it explicitly states otherwise. In particular, it should not be construed as forming part of any employment contract.

APPOINTMENT AND OFFICE

1. For all clergy, details regarding rights and responsibilities of office may be found in The Ordinal, the licence/ deed of appointment, the role description and the Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of the Clergy.
2. In addition, it should be noted that all clergy, regardless of their form of tenure, are subject to the provisions contained within the Canons, the Clergy Discipline Measure, the current law related to patronage and the appointments procedure and anti-discrimination legislation (apart from the specific exemptions granted).

Common tenure appointments

1. From January 2011 the Terms of Service legislation conferred a new form of tenure on clergy, called Common Tenure. This automatically covered team vicars, priests in charge, assistant curates, fixed term appointments, house for duty clergy, self supporting ministers, canonically licensed lay workers in receipt of stipend and/or housing and all new appointments made after the legislation came into effect.
2. Those clergy on common tenure have the right to a Statement of Particulars which sets out the matters relating to the general day to day aspects of their appointment and indicates all rights and responsibilities related to their appointment.
3. It is the aim of the legislation to provide greater security and equality of rights. Fixed term contracts will only be given, therefore, in the following circumstances:
If the appointment is;
 - designated as covering another office holder's absence from work;
 - held by an office holder over 70;
 - designated as an initial training post;

- designated as an interim post;
 - designated as subject to sponsorship funding;
 - designated as a probationary office;
 - created by a Bishop's Mission Order under the Dioceses Pastoral and Mission Measure, 2007;
 - designated as a post which is held in connection or conjunction with another office or employment;
 - where the office holder does not have the right of abode, or unlimited leave to enter or remain, in the United Kingdom;
 - where the office holder occupies a post which is designated as a Locally Supported Ministry Post (for example, where a parish has agreed with the diocese that it will take on responsibility for funding an additional curate's post).
4. Clergy with freehold can continue to hold it on all its existing terms, if they wish to do so, until they move to another post.
 5. Those clergy designated as employees (of the Diocesan Board of Finance or possibly the Bishop in his corporate capacity) are not covered by common tenure and as such will be issued with contracts of employment.

Termination

For all clergy, unless resigning, their term of office may be terminated only by the Bishop in accordance with the following circumstances:

- (a) on the death of the office holder;
- (b) on attaining the retirement age specified in relation to that office in section 1 of the Ecclesiastical Offices (Age Limit) Measure 1975 (1975 No. 2) or on the expiration of any period which the office holder is permitted to continue in office after the retirement age under section 2 or 3 of that Measure;
- (c) where the office holder is removed from office following a finding of an offence under Part VI of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1963 (1963 No. 1) or under any provision of the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003 (2003 No. 3);
- (d) where the term is fixed or is otherwise limited, on the expiry of the term or the occurrence of the event in question, as the case may be;
- (e) where the office ceases to exist as a consequence of a pastoral scheme or order made under the Pastoral Measure 1983 (1983 No. 1) or reorganisation scheme made under Part II of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007 (2007 No. 1). In this case compensation of loss of stipend will be payable to those affected (for those on fixed term appointments this will be for a maximum of one year).

Common tenure appointments

As set out at Section 3 of the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Measure 2009 the Bishop may also terminate office:

(f) where the Bishop revokes the licence of the office holder under the capability procedures.

STIPEND, GRANTS AND OTHER BENEFITS

1. The National Minimum Stipend (NMS) is calculated and set by the Central Stipend Authority (CSA). All clergy under Common Tenure are legally entitled to receive at least the NMS. The diocese sets other stipend rates, guided by National and Regional Stipends benchmarks also provided by the CSA. The stipend for part time stipendiary clergy will be calculated separately.
2. All stipendiary clergy are required to complete an annual income and expenditure return (forms PSA/PUN or PSA/PUB) each year, for use by the diocese and Payroll services. Additional income arising from the ordinary course of the Office should be declared on your PUN form and will form part of the augmentation (ie will be deducted from the amount financed by the Portsmouth Diocesan Board of Finance – DBF). If you have any doubt about what constitutes additional income please consult the Diocesan Office.
3. The Diocesan Office uses the information on these forms to calculate the following year's level of payment and to give instructions to Payroll services. It is helpful if the form can be returned via the Diocesan Office as soon as possible after each 1st April. Further information may be found in the booklet 'Your Stipend', which may be accessed from the Diocesan Office or www.commontenure.org .
4. For the purposes of National Insurance only, clergy are treated as being of employed status. Employee contributions are deducted from stipend payments each month alongside 'pay as you earn' tax deductions. Employer's contributions are paid by the diocese.

Grants

1. Grants on First Appointment, Removal, and Resettlement

Group A	Archdeacons
	Incumbents
	Priests-in-Charge
	Team Vicars and Team Rectors

Non Parochial Clergy of Incumbent Status

Group B Assistant Curates
 Deacons and Licensed Lay Workers

Removals

The diocese will meet the reasonable costs of clergy removals (only by a firm appointed by the Board) for all in groups A and B above provided that the person's existing appointment/home is in another English diocese. In the case of ordination or first licensing of curates or licensed lay workers, they must have taken up the appointment immediately following the completion of their training.

First Appointment Grant

The diocese will pay a grant to those taking up an appointment for the first time after being ordained or licensed. The object of the grant is to help towards the cost of setting up a home for the first time and to compensate for the cost of robes, theological books and other equipment that will be needed. The grant payable is that recommended by the Archbishop's Council each year and is normally equal to 10% of the National Minimum Stipend. Those taking up a Self supporting or 0.5 Stipendiary post will receive 50% of this grant.

A further grant of the same amount will be payable on transfer from a Group B post to a Group A post. The grant is intended to help towards the cost of setting up home in a larger house.

Resettlement Grant

The diocese will pay a resettlement grant to those changing appointment, of a fixed maximum sum, toward incidental expenses including alteration to, or purchasing of, furnishings. This grant is also normally set at the rate of 10% of National Minimum Stipend.

2. A number of national charities exist to assist clergy and their dependents at times of particular need. This large charity is able to offer financial support and help in a wide range of circumstances:
 - The Sons and Friends of the Clergy, 1 Dean Trench Street,
London SW1P 3HB
Tel: 020 7799 3696 Website: <http://www.sonsoftheclergy.org.uk>
3. The Archdeacon or the Diocesan Secretary will be able to provide information on other options. It is always advisable to inform the Archdeacon before making any grant application to cover indebtedness.

4. The DBF administers several small trust funds for assisting clergy, retired clergy and widows/widowers in need. The Archdeacon or Diocesan Secretary should be informed of any cases of need.
5. The DBF also administers two trust funds from which it pays annual grants to assist towards children's education. To be eligible applicants must be full-time and stipendiary, and have at least two children between the ages of 9-18 years still at school, when the first annual grant is made. These grants are not restricted to children receiving private education. Application forms are available from the Diocesan Office and should be returned each year by 1 September. The grants are normally paid in October of each year; the amount depends upon the number of applications and the annual income of the Trusts.

Benefits

1. Car loans for stipendiary ministers are available from the Church Commissioners. Details of the scheme and application forms are available through the Diocesan Office or from the Church of England website. Repayments are made monthly by means of an automatic deduction from stipend paid via the Church Commissioners.

PAROCHIAL FEES

1. A new policy for Parochial Fees and Payments to Officiating Ministers came into effect on 1 January 2014. Details of this can be found in the Diocesan Handbook or on the Diocesan Website at this link : http://portsmouth.anglican.org/fileadmin/images/parish_resources/Portsmouth_Diocese_Parochial_Fee_Policy_from_1_1_14_2.pdf

EXPENSES

1. Parishes are responsible for the reimbursement of the proper parochial expenses incurred on their behalf by their parochial clergy and other licensed and accredited staff. These sums do not form part of the stipend calculation but the level of stipend presupposes full reimbursement of these expenses.
2. It is essential that at the very start of taking up an appointment an incumbent or assistant should discuss working expenses with the PCC by means of a consultation with the Churchwardens.
3. It is suggested that agreement should be reached at such a meeting between the Churchwardens and the Minister (and the Incumbent too where an Assistant is involved), on those expenses to be paid directly by the PCC and those to be reimbursed. Procedures for monthly

reimbursement and the claim form to be used should also be discussed.

4. The booklet entitled 'The Parochial Expenses of the Clergy – a guide to their reimbursement' is issued by the Central Stipends Authority and may be found at www.cofe-ministry.org.uk/dracsc. The matters covered by the booklet include: postage and stationery; telephone; secretarial assistance; office equipment; maintenance of robes; hospitality; travel - car and public transport; books; use of study - help with replacement furnishings.
5. Up to date rates for fees and travelling expenses will be sent to parishes by the Diocesan Office as and when these are revised.
6. The Archdeacons are available to give advice or to help in matters of interpretation.
7. Some parochial clergy bear at their own wish a proportion of parochial working expenses, and in fact allowance is made for this on the Church Commissioners' Income Return. Despite this, it is recommended that rather than forego some reimbursement, clergy should charge their expenses in full and then make a contribution to parochial funds so as to ensure that the parish is aware of the full extent of its liability. Furthermore it will ensure that misunderstandings as to the correct level of expenses do not occur on change of the minister.
8. For tax purposes full and accurate records should be kept of all working expenses received.

PENSION

1. Full details of the pension scheme and retirement housing provisions are available from:

The Church of England Pensions Board
29 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3PS

Tel 02078981800

<http://www.churchofengland.org/aboutus/structure/cepb/pensions/church-of-england-pensions-scheme.aspx>

2. The following publications from the Board may also be useful:
 - Your Pension Questions Answered
 - Retirement Housing

HOUSING

1. Those Office holders provided with a house of residence, for the better performance of their duties, need to be aware of both their rights and responsibilities. These are detailed in the Repair of Benefice Buildings Measure 1972 and other legislation but may be summarised as follows:

Duties of the relevant housing provider (as administered by the Diocesan Property Sub Committee 'the Committee'):

- to repair the structure and exterior of the buildings of the property, including windows, doors, drains, gutters and external pipes
- to repair all relevant walls, fences, gates, drives and drains of the property
- to repair and keep in proper working order installations related to; the supply of water, gas and electricity; sanitation; space heating or heating water
- to arrange for a qualified surveyor to inspect the property at least every five years and submit a report describing its state and condition
- to send the office holder a copy of this report and after consultation carry out within a reasonable time frame any appropriate repairs
- to pay the council tax
- to insure the property against all risks related to buildings.

Duties of the office holder:

- to permit the officers acting for 'the committee' to enter the property after giving reasonable notice; in order to inspect or carry out repairs or for another reasonable purpose consistent with its powers and obligations
- to keep the property and contents provided clean and free from deterioration
- to keep any garden or other grounds belonging to the property in a good state of upkeep
- to notify 'the committee' of any repairs required as soon as possible
- to pay the whole or part of any repairs for which they are responsible
- to use the property as a private residence for his or her household only and for any other purpose only as agreed by 'the committee' or officers acting on its behalf
- not to make any repairs, alterations or additions to the property without the consent of 'the committee' or officers acting on its behalf
- where the property is held on a lease, to observe any binding term, condition, or covenant
- to vacate the property within one month of either ceasing to hold office or changing office and to leave the property clean, tidy and clear of all personal possessions .

'The committee' expects each parish to undertake the following duties, through its PCC;

- to assist with the decoration of the property
- to help the office holder with general small maintenance

- to support the office holder in keeping the property in good order
 - to oversee any contracts for alarm systems and fire prevention
 - to pay water rates.
2. Any disputes or objections regarding housing may be dealt with by the grievance procedure. Incumbents have the right of absolute veto over the sale of the parsonage house. Priests in charge on common tenure have a right of objection to the Church Commissioners in the event of a proposed sale.
 3. For further detail regarding all these rights and responsibilities within the Portsmouth diocese please refer to The Diocesan Property Committee's 'Parsonage House Handbook'.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ministerial Development Review (MDR)

1. Purpose

The *Ministerial Development Review Guidance (approved by Archbishops' Council, January 2010)* describes the purpose of MDR as follows:

- 'MDR facilitates a guided discussion framed around an office holder's ministry. The purpose of the review is to look back and reflect on what has happened over the last year or two of ministry and, informed by that, to look forward to plan, anticipate and develop a clearer vision for what lies ahead. In looking back there is an opportunity to acknowledge all there is to be thankful for and anything that is a matter for lament, and in looking forward to anticipate the changing demands of the role, identify future objectives and areas for potential development.
- MDR is founded in the assumption that all office holders are responsible to God for the ministry entrusted to them and that they are accountable to the Church and to one another for the way in which it is exercised. Ministry is a gift and a trust for which each individual holds account. Accountability includes a preparedness to grow and develop on the basis of experience and the learning gained from it. It is about affirmation and encouragement as well as challenge.'

2. Requirement to participate

- All clergy holding their office under Common Tenure will be required to participate in MDR.

- All other clergy, including those with freehold, are offered the opportunity to undertake regularly a Ministerial Development Review.

3. Framework

The principles on which the Bishop of Portsmouth's MDR scheme are based, draw on existing practice in the diocese and they have been revised to comply with the Clergy Terms of Service legislation as below:

- MDR is episcopally led. However, the Bishop will delegate to others responsibility for undertaking part of this task and so some of an office holder's reviews will be undertaken by their Archdeacon. For all clergy, reviews will take place as a minimum every two years. The Bishop will undertake one review in each four year cycle.
- Clergy in their title post are subject to review and assessment as part of their initial training and will not participate in the standard diocesan MDR process.
- MDR must take place at least once every two years. In interim years clergy will be contacted by their Archdeacon to check that training needs have been met and to offer a meeting if further training needs have arisen that need to be discussed.
- Written records deriving from the review process must be agreed and signed by the office holder and a copy given to them.
- As part of the review, comment will be sought from those with and amongst whom clergy exercise their ministry, normally through written feedback from three representative persons having direct knowledge and experience of the reviewee's ministry.
- On-going training needs identified during MDR will be recorded and a copy of the form forwarded to the Head of Mission & Discipleship.
- Copies of the summary sheet completed at the end of the review will be held by the reviewee, Bishop and Archdeacon.

4. Process

The core stages of the MDR process are:

- Reflection – the office holder will be notified that a review is approaching and whether it will be their Archdeacon or the Bishop conducting the review. They will be encouraged to reflect over current responsibilities and how, if at all, these have changed since the last review.
- Preparation – the office holder will be given forms to help with their preparation. The questions on the forms will encourage self reflection and the seeking of feedback from others. In advance of the review it is expected that the office holder will identify how far they have met their previous objectives and identify further objectives for the future.

- Discussion – the reviewer will guide the office holder but it is expected that the office holder will do the majority of the talking. Objectives will be identified and agreed. A summary of the discussion and details of the agreed objectives and proposed actions will be written up and a copy retained by the Bishop and Archdeacon for their records. A copy of identified training needs will also be sent to the Head of Mission & Discipleship.
- In interim years the Archdeacon will check, by email, that identified training needs are being or have been met and will offer to consider or discuss any further training needs that have arisen in the past year.

Copies of the relevant forms may be found at

http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/information/diocesan_policies/ministerial_development_review/

Continuing Ministerial Development (CMD)

1. Background

- Regular, focused and well-resourced in-service training is essential for the continuing personal and professional development of the Church's ministers.
- The Clergy Terms of Service Regulations require that bishops ensure, as far as possible, that every office holder is afforded opportunities to participate in such education or training as is appropriate to their ministerial development.
- The Regulations also require office holders to participate in arrangements that are made for their continuing education.

2. Principles

Current recommendations (2009) from the Archbishop's Council Ministry Division about CMD include:

- An emphasis on specific provision for those at transitional points in ministry;
- Ensuring that learning opportunities are linked to the outcomes of ministerial development reviews;
- Relating training provision for clergy's current and future development to the diocese's strategic mission priorities;
- An appropriate balance between mandatory and discretionary training events.
- CMD be available to all who hold the Bishop's Licence up to the age of retirement.

3. Range of opportunities

The range of CMD opportunities may include:

- Bishop's general training days;
- Diocesan conferences;
- Courses and training events arranged by the diocese;
- Attendance at training events arranged by external agencies;
- Extended study leave;
- Courses leading to Higher Education qualifications;
- Individually customised training programmes related to MDR outcomes.
- Coaching and mentoring programmes.
- Shadowing and secondments

Clergy completing their initial training, following ordination, (IME years 4 – 7) are required to participate in a development programme specifically targeted for their needs, to supplement the training support provided by their training incumbents.

4. Process

- *For those in initial training (IME 4 – 7):*
Information about the annual training programme will be provided by the diocese, to trainees and their Incumbents. Advice will be given about the creation of portfolio records of training, to assist with the process of quality assurance and assessment prior to the completion of Title Curacies.
- *For clergy in continuing ministerial development:*
A record of developmental needs identified during MDR will be forwarded to the Head of Mission & Discipleship, to initiate discussion about how to access appropriate sources of training.

5. Time off for a retreat

You are encouraged to take a retreat once a year.

LEAVE

All clergy are encouraged to take regular holiday breaks for the benefit of their health.

1. It should, therefore, be normal custom for clergy to have a day off each week, and to take six weeks' holiday each calendar year plus the usual Bank and Public holidays, subject to the following restrictions: **All this will be adjusted pro-rata for part-time clergy**
 - The weekly rest period may not be taken on a Sunday; on any of the Principal Feasts of the Church of England, as set out in the Canons and Common Worship; on Ash Wednesday, or; on Good Friday.
 - The days taken as annual leave may not normally include more than 6 Sundays, any of the Principal Feasts of the Church of England, Ash Wednesday or Good Friday.
 - Days may be taken in lieu of the Bank Holiday entitlement in respect of Christmas Day and Good Friday.
2. It should be noted that if starting or leaving part way through a calendar year the amount of leave days will be reduced accordingly. The Diocesan Office can advise as necessary.
3. The Bishop will welcome consultation with any minister who is unable to take a holiday on financial grounds.

4. It is helpful that Area Deans are notified in advance when annual leave is being taken so that records may be kept to show that the diocese is meeting its duty of care and suitable arrangements can be made for cover.
5. It is advised you keep a personal record of annual leave taken.

Special leave

1. The Bishop or Archdeacons may exceptionally grant an additional period of special leave, in particular circumstances. Special leave exists to support clergy when unforeseen emergencies arise – particularly those related to children or dependents. A dependent may be someone who can reasonably be said to rely on the office holder for assistance.

Maternity, Paternity, Parental and adoption leave

The Diocesan Secretary should be contacted for up to date details regarding specific leave entitlements.

Time off for public duties

1. Clergy are entitled to spend some time on public duties but this must be discussed in advance with the Archdeacon or the Bishop.
2. Public duties include work done for a public authority, a court, a tribunal, charity or trade union.

Common Tenure appointments

The detailed conditions for such time off are specified in clause 23 of the Regulations.

These may be summarised as:

- The amount of time spent must be reasonable in all circumstances, taking into account the time required for the duty and how much time has already been spent on this (or other) public duties.
- The impact of the public duties on the office holder's day to day duties must be reasonable in all circumstances.
- Agreement for performance of such public duties must be granted by the Bishop.
- Consideration should be taken of any remuneration that is received in connection with the duties of the office to determine whether a reduction in stipend is reasonable.

SICKNESS

1. All stipendiary clergy, unable to perform their duties because of sickness, are required to telephone 02392899664 or to email clergy.sickness@portsmouth.anglican.org as soon as possible in order to comply with the Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) scheme.
2. If entitled to SSP, stipend will be paid according to SSP rules (full stipend for 6 months – **pro rata for part time clergy**) subject to a maximum of 12 months sickness absence in a period of 4 years or less, and as long as the following requirements are met:
 - For sickness absence of up to **seven days**, a self certificate must be obtained, completed and submitted to the Diocesan Office (a copy of the Diocesan self certificate form can be obtained from the Diocesan Office and may also be downloaded from the Diocesan website)
 - If the sickness absence lasts **more than seven days** a medical certificate signed by a GP or other medical practitioner must be submitted to the Diocesan Office.
3. Payment of stipend after entitlement to Statutory Sick Pay has expired is conditional on the agreement of the Bishop (or his representative) and on guidance from the Archbishops' Council.

Common Tenure appointments

4. The rights and responsibilities related to sickness absence are set out at Regulation 27 and 28 and, in addition to the details above, include the following points:
 - All reasonable endeavours should be made to ensure that the duties of the office are performed by another person during a period of absence.
 - If the time off is protracted, the Bishop or Archdeacon may make other arrangements for the discharge of these duties.
 - If the Bishop has reasonable grounds for concern about the office holder's physical or mental health he may direct that the office holder undergo a medical examination by a mutually agreed medical practitioner and he may, in serious cases, need to instigate the capability procedure.

The Bishop is concerned for the health and welfare of all clergy and has arranged for the publication of a guide entitled 'Pastoral Care for the Clergy' which highlights the assistance and range of services available if or when needed.

RESOLVING DIFFICULTIES

Grievance Procedure

Common Tenure appointments

1. Office holders have the right to seek redress if they have concerns that cannot be resolved during the normal course of their duties.
2. The objective of the grievance procedure (as detailed in the Code of Practice issued by the Archbishop's Council – a copy of which can be obtained from:
<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/lifeevents/ministry/workofmindiv/dracsc/rctshomepage/grievanceprocedure.pdf>
is to deal with such complaints promptly, fairly, and consistently, with a focus on mediation and conciliation wherever possible.
3. The underlying principles of the procedure are as follows:
 - All grievances will be taken seriously and responded to fairly and quickly
 - Grievances will be dealt with informally wherever possible
 - All matters will be kept confidential
 - The focus will be on issues not personalities
 - Account will be taken of the legitimate interests of all concerned
 - Office holders will have the right of representation by a colleague or trade union representative at any meeting
 - Grievances may be pursued without fear of sanction
4. This grievance procedure is available to all Office holders under Common Tenure and is intended to provide a means of addressing grievances related to the office held.
5. In the case of alleged bullying, the diocesan Dignity at Work Policy sets out the steps which should be taken when making a formal complaint under the grievance procedure.
6. The key stages of the procedure are as follows:
 - Informal stage – wherever possible attempts should be made to address the person or body responsible for the matter directly and attempt to resolve the grievance informally.
 - Formal stage – if the grievance has not been resolved informally or within a reasonable time period, the office holder may choose to proceed to the formal stage which is comprised of:

Stage one – the grievance needs to be set out in writing, describing what attempts have been made to resolve the matter informally and what is the desired remedy.

Stage two – the person handling the grievance will investigate the matter and then hold a meeting to discuss the issues. This will be followed by a letter detailing the decisions made regarding appropriate resolution.

Stage three – if the matter has not been resolved satisfactorily then the office holder may appeal in writing. They will then be invited to attend a

meeting to discuss the issues. The decision of the appeal body will be given in writing. There is no further right of appeal.

Capability Procedure

Common tenure appointments

1. The main objective of the capability procedure is to help office holders, whose performance falls below an acceptable minimum standard, to improve in a fair and just way. The capability procedure can only lead to dismissal after all other avenues have been explored.
2. The procedure contains many built in safeguards including:
 - The right to be informed in advance, and in writing, of the nature of the performance issue, the procedure to be followed, and the possible actions that may be taken,
 - The involvement of a panel, not an individual, at every formal stage,
 - The requirement to take human resources advice,
 - The right to be supported by a friend or trade union representative during the formal stages of the process,
 - The right to respond to all points raised,
 - The right of appeal.
3. The capability procedure will not be used in trivial or unsubstantiated cases, and can only be invoked by the Bishop, Archdeacon or someone specifically designated on their behalf, after a thorough investigation of the facts, and an interview with the clergy concerned.
4. The procedure will normally consist of the following stages but can be discontinued at any point if the required improvements are made:
 - Informal warning
 - Formal procedure stage one – formal written warning
 - Formal procedure stage two – final formal written warning
 - Formal procedure stage three – removal from current office
5. In exceptional cases stage one of the formal procedure may be bypassed but should this be the case, the requirements of natural justice will always prevail and appropriate pastoral support and care will always be provided.

Portsmouth diocese will adhere to the Code of Practice issued by The Archbishops' Council at all times. Copies of this code and the supporting advice issued alongside it can be obtained from:

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/lifeevents/ministry/workofmindiv/dracsc/rctshomepage/capability2.pdf>

Disciplinary procedures

1. The Clergy Discipline Measure 2003 (that came into effect in 2006) provides a structure for dealing efficiently and fairly with formal complaints of misconduct against any member of the clergy.
2. All admitted to holy orders in the Church of England are covered by the Measure, whether or not in licensed ministry.
3. A disciplinary process can only be started by a formal written complaint of misconduct, which is made to the Bishop.
4. There are four grounds on which misconduct may be alleged, namely: acting in breach of ecclesiastical law; failing to do something which should have been done under ecclesiastical law; neglecting to perform or being inefficient in performing the duties of office; or engaging in conduct that is unbecoming or inappropriate to the office and work of the clergy.
5. The complainant must produce written evidence in support of the complaint, and verify the complaint by a statement of truth.
6. The complaint and evidence in support are referred by the Bishop to the diocesan registrar for advice.
7. Having received the registrar's advice, the Bishop may decide that the complaint should be dismissed, in which case it will proceed no further under the Measure.
8. If on the other hand the Bishop considers that the complainant has a proper interest in complaining and that the complaint deserves further consideration, he will invite the Priest or Deacon about whom the complaint is made to send a written answer verified by a statement of truth, together with evidence in support.
9. The Bishop will then decide which of five possible courses of action available to him under the Measure is the appropriate one to pursue. He can:
 - take no further action;
 - record the complaint conditionally for a period of up to five years, such that if another complaint is made within that time and is dealt with under paragraphs c, d or e below, the two complaints may then be dealt with together;
 - refer the complaint to a conciliator in an attempt to obtain agreement between the complainant and the respondent as to how the complaint should be resolved;
 - impose a disciplinary penalty (but only with the consent of the respondent); or

- require the complaint to be formally investigated by the Designated Officer, a barrister employed in the Church of England Legal Office.

More details are available on-line at:

<http://www.churchofengland.org/aboutus/structure/churchlawlegis/clergydiscipline.aspx>

HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. Office holders are deemed to be responsible for their own health and safety.
2. Any advice or guidance required may be sought from the Diocesan Office or the HSE website.
3. Health and safety concerns related to housing should be raised with the Diocesan Office.

SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

1. All clergy are required to have a current DBS check.
2. Information or advice regarding diocesan safeguarding arrangements may be sought from the Diocesan Office.