

Part 11 Review update

MC/23/76

Date of meeting	19-20 October 2023
Contact name and details	Mrs Joanne Anderton, Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice lcp@methodistchurch.org.uk
Action required	For note
Resolutions	76/1. The Council receives the report.

Summary of content

Subject of aims	To update the Council on progress with the review of the Church's complaints and discipline process (the Review) since the Council's last meeting.
Main points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An external consultant has been appointed, following an open recruitment process.• The Part 11 Review Task Group has been appointed.• The external consultant has started work and a fuller report on progress will be brought to the Council in January 2024.
Background context and relevant documents (with function)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notice of Motion 2019/202• The Council's Report to the 2023 Conference, Part 1, Section H: https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/29362/conf-23-pc-3-methodist-council-part-1.pdf
Consultations	None to report at this stage.

Summary of impact

Standing Orders	SO 013 (suspension), SO 232-237 (safeguarding) and Part 11 of Standing Orders are to be reviewed as part of the Review; consequential amendments to other provisions in CPD may also be required.
Risk	Reputational risk if the Review is not completed in an effective manner.

- 1 At its meeting in April 2023, the Council received paper [MC/23/44](#) relating to the review of the Church's complaints and discipline process (**the Review**) and passed the following resolutions:
 - 44/2 The Council directs that an interim report is made to the 2023 Conference, and that a final report is made to the 2024 Conference.**
 - 44/3. The Council directs the Secretary of the Conference to appoint a Task Group to assist the external consultant and to recommend the final report to the Conference, comprised as follows:**
 - **The Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice, or their representative**
 - **Up to two representatives of the Law and Polity Committee and/or the Complaints and Discipline Sub-Committee**
 - **A representative of the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity Committee**
 - **A presbyter or deacon with appropriate pastoral experience**
 - **A representative of the Safeguarding Committee**
 - **Up to two other persons with particular, relevant expertise**
- 2 An interim report was made to the 2023 Conference, at [Section H of the Council's Report, Part 1](#).
- 3 After the Conference an open recruitment process was held to find a consultant to take forward the final stages of the Review. More than 20 applications were received, from which five candidates were interviewed. The role was offered to, and accepted by, Mr Dave Orford.
- 4 Mr Orford's appointment as the Church's independent Complaints and Standards Consultant started on 25 August 2023. Mr Orford is a retired senior chief police officer with considerable experience of dealing with all aspects of conduct matters. He has overseen major safeguarding investigations of national significance and gave evidence to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) twice. Since leaving the police he has been consulting in the United Kingdom and abroad.
- 5 Mr Orford's initial work has commenced with document reviews and a number of interviews with key staff and office-holders across the Methodist Church.
- 6 The Secretary of the Conference has also now appointed the Task Group required by Resolution 44/3 above, as follows:
 - **The Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice, or their representative:** Mrs Joanne Anderton (Ms Laura Kent to deputise)
 - **Up to two representatives of the Law and Polity Committee and/or the Complaints and Discipline Sub-Committee:** Mr Richard Price (for the Law and Polity Committee), the Revd Dr Andrew Goodhead (for the Complaints and Discipline Sub-Committee)
 - **A representative of the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity Committee:** The Revd Naomi Kaiga
 - **A presbyter or deacon with appropriate pastoral experience:** The Revd Dr Sheryl Anderson
 - **A representative of the Safeguarding Committee:** Ms Judith Davey-Cole
 - **Up to two other persons with particular, relevant expertise:** Mr Stephen Allinson, Mr Thomas PyeThe Connexional Complaints Worker, Deacon Donna Ely, will also attend Task Group meetings and advise the Task Group as necessary.
- 7 The Task Group expects to hold its first meeting in late autumn 2023 and will work with the Complaints and Standards Consultant to bring recommendations to the Council for consideration before proposing them to the 2024 Conference.
- 8 A further update on progress will be reported to the Council at its meeting in January 2024.

***RESOLUTION

76/1. The Council receives the report.