

Notice of Motion 2016/202 Safeguarding and DBS Checks

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Status of Paper	Final
Action Required	Decision
Resolutions	84/1. The Council receives the report. 84/2. The Council directs that amended standing orders are prepared to effect the changes proposed in Notice of Motion 2016/202.

Summary of Content and Impact

Subject and Aims	This paper is to help the Council decide on whether or not it wishes to proceed with the suggestion made in Notice of Motion 2016/202. This notice of motion was not debated, but referred to the Council.
Main Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBS requirements previously introduced for supernumerary ministers are not reflected in current policy in relation to local preachers • Arrangements should be put into place so that all local preachers are also fully covered by DBS check requirements • This is a simple change to policy and does not require further debate at the Conference.
Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)	The 2016 Conference received a report relating to the safeguarding work of the Church and report on the Past Cases Review from which this notice of motion arose.
Impact	Potential changes to Standing Orders

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The 2016 Conference was presented with the following notice of motion (202):

DBS Checks [DR 7/14]

The Conference notes an inconsistency in the Safer Recruitment Policy guidance on p751 of Volume 2 of CPD.

Under “Part 1 Qualification for Appointment under S.O. 010(3), and Duty to Obtain Disclosures”, and specifically within the section “Note regarding Safeguarding”, there is at b) provision for Supernumeraries no longer capable of preaching to be exempt from having a criminal records check, but there is no similar exemption permitted, at c), for local preachers no longer capable of preaching. The Conference therefore amends the Safer Recruitment Policy by harmonising b) and c) in this regard. Thus c) states: “All local preachers capable of preaching and worship leaders.”

The Conference referred the Motion to the Methodist Council.

The Conference did not vote on this notice of motion and referred it to the Council. If the Council decides that it wishes to proceed with this work it would need to link with the review of Standing Orders relating to safeguarding being undertaken by the Law and Polity Committee.

The notice of motion proposes an amendment to current requirements regarding DBS checks for local preachers. When DBS checks were introduced there was no provision made for local preachers who were no longer active in public ministry. There is provision for supernumeraries who are no longer exercising a public ministry to be exempt from the requirement to hold a current DBS check. This notice of motion proposes that the same provision be extended to local preachers who are no longer active.

Recommendation

In light of the current requirements for all supernumeraries to have an up to date DBS check (unless an exemption has been agreed following a declaration that they will no longer undertake public ministry), it is recommended that local preachers and worship leaders should be subject to the same provisions.

It is recommended that all accredited local preachers and worship leaders should have an up to date DBS and undertake required safeguarding training unless they are no longer active in preaching or leadership within the Church, and have signed a declaration logged with their superintendent minister. If this recommendation is agreed, it should be reflected in standing orders.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

84/1. The Council receives the report.

84/2. The Council directs that amended standing orders are prepared to effect the changes proposed in Notice of Motion 2016/202.