

QUALIFICATIONS FOR CLERICAL CANDIDATES – GENERAL SYNOD

31. To be eligible to stand for election as clergy in a diocese or other electoral area, a person must have been ordained priest or deacon but must not be in episcopal orders and must be in one of the following categories.

(1) A person who is a qualified elector in the diocese or other electoral area.

(2) A person who has written permission from the bishop to officiate in the diocese and who would be a qualified elector in the diocese or other electoral area if the person was:

(a) a member of a deanery synod in the diocese or other area, or

(b) in the diocese in Europe, a member of a deanery or archdeaconry synod, or

(c) in the diocese of Sodor and Man, a member of the diocesan synod.

(3) A person qualified to vote in the universities and TEs constituency and who:

(a) would be a qualified elector in the diocese or other electoral area but for being qualified to vote in the universities and TEs constituency, and

(b) is beneficed in, or licensed to, a parish in the diocese or other electoral area or is licensed to serve as a vicar in a team ministry in a benefice in the diocese or other electoral area, and

(c) has chosen to stand in the diocese or area rather than in the universities and TEs constituency (see paragraph 35 below).

32. A person is disqualified from being nominated as a candidate if the person has a paid office or employment the appointment to which is (or may be) made or confirmed by the General Synod, the Convocations, the Archbishops' Council, the Church Commissioners, the Church of England Pensions Board or the Corporation of the Church House⁵⁵. But this disqualification does not apply to a Church Commissioner paid for holding office as such.

33. Note that only one archdeacon can be elected for a diocese or, if the diocese is divided into separate electoral areas, for each of those areas

34. Where a person in the category set out in paragraph 31(2) above has left a post licensed by the bishop, the person will be eligible to stand, despite not being a member of a deanery synod in the diocese, if the person has written permission to officiate

35. In the category set out in paragraph 31(3) above, an elector in the universities and TEs constituency who chooses to stand for election in a diocese should inform both the presiding officer for the diocese and the presiding officer for the universities and TEs constituency (a post held by the provincial registrar for elections, who is also the chief legal adviser in the Legal Office⁵⁸). The elector will then be entitled to seek nomination as a candidate in the diocese but will not be entitled to nominate another candidate, or vote, in the diocesan election. If the diocese is divided into electoral areas, a university or TEI elector must choose in which electoral area to seek nomination. The elector will still have a vote in the election in the universities and TEs constituency but will no longer be qualified to stand as a candidate in that constituency.