

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

TO THE

SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

TO BE HELD AT BELFAST

18 DECEMBER 2025



ITEM 1 – GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE – Supplementary Report
PRE-ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

1. The General Assembly Business Committee met on Wednesday afternoon, 17 December 2025. It received a number of reports regarding preparations of the General Assembly.
2. The Committee considered the draft of late and additional items of business submitted by the notified date and agreed the following:
 - a. That the amendment submitted by V Rev Dr Trevor Morrow, with regard to Business Item 2, Resolution 3 (Reports page 22) be licensed.
 - b. That the amendment submitted by Rev Dr Peter Fleming, with regard to Business Item 2, Resolution 3 (Reports page 22) be licensed.
 - c. That the amendment submitted by Rev Richie Cronin, with regard to Business Item 2, Resolution 3 (Reports page 22) be licensed.
 - d. That the amendment submitted by Rev Philip McClelland, with regard to Business Item 3, Resolution 5 (Reports page 22) be licensed.
 - e. That the amendment submitted by Rev Andy Downey, with regard to Business Item 3, Resolution 5 (Reports page 22) be licensed.
 - f. That the amendment submitted by Rev Dr Colin Burcombe, with regard to Business item 3, Resolution 5 (Reports page 22) be licensed.
 - g. That additional resolutions in the name of Rev Ivan Steen, with regard to Item 2 be licensed as Resolutions 3a & 3b.
 - h. That an additional resolution in the name of Mrs Lesley McDowell, with regard to Item 2 be licensed as Resolution 3c.
 - i. That all of the remaining material in this Supplementary Reports Booklet be licensed, and instructed that it be made available, in printed form and online, from Thursday morning onwards and the Acting Clerk be permitted to make any minor corrections.

General Assembly Business Committee Report, Additional Resolution 2(a), page 22:

- 1(a) That Mrs Jayne Bellingham, PCI Safeguarding Lead, be permitted to address the House.

ROY MACKAY

ITEM 2 - GENERAL COUNCIL SECTION 1
General Assembly Advisory Committee p.22

Supplementary Report
Amendment to Resolution 3

Delete Resolution 3 (on page 22) and replace with the following:

That the interim recommendations in Section 1 of the report are adopted as a framework, and that specific proposals, *according to the principles of justice that are expressed in the Bible*, with details, be brought to a subsequent meeting of the General Council.

Amendment to Resolution 3

Delete Resolution 3 (on page 22) and replace with the following:

That the interim recommendations in Section 1 of the report are adopted as framework, and that specific proposals, with details, be brought to a subsequent meeting of the General Council *for review, and that the General Council bring a report on these matters with resolutions to a special meeting of the General Assembly on Tuesday 17 February or other date as called by the Moderator of the General Assembly.*

Amendment to Resolution 3

Delete Resolution 3 (on page 22) and replace with the following:

That the interim recommendations in Section 1 of the report are adopted as framework, and that specific proposals, with details, be brought to a subsequent meeting of the General Council *and that the protocol for standing down ministers, elders, and senior leaders be circulated to all ministers and Kirk Sessions and be reviewed in light of any feedback at the next meeting of General Council and that the revised protocol be brought to a Special meeting of the General Assembly on Tuesday 17 February or other date as called by the Moderator of the General Assembly, for its approval.*

Amendment to Resolution 5

Delete Resolution 5 (on page 22) and replace with the following:

That a General Council Task Group be established to inquire into issues of governance, culture and integrity within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland with the aim of improving the proper functioning of our Presbyterian form of Church government *according to principles regarding the same to be provided by the Doctrine Committee.* The membership of the Task Group will be appointed by the Office Bearers of the General Council, in consultation with the Council.

Amendment to Resolution 5

Delete Resolution 5 (on page 22) and replace with the following:

That a *General Assembly* Task Group be established to inquire into issues of governance, culture and integrity within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland with the aim of improving the proper functioning of our Presbyterian form of Church government.

The membership of the Task Group *will be:*

- *Moderator and Acting Clerk or Deputy Clerk*
- *Three people appointed by the Moderator and Acting Clerk or Deputy Clerk (one Clerk of Presbytery; one Convener of a General Assembly Council or Commission; one member of the General Council)*
- *Three members of Doctrine Committee, appointed by the Doctrine Committee Convener*
- *The Moderator, or if necessary, another member, of each Presbytery not already represented, appointed by that Presbytery before 17 January 2026.*

Amendment to Resolution 5

Delete Resolution 5 (on page 22) and replace with the following:

That a General Council Task Group be established to inquire into issues of governance, culture and integrity within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland with the aim of improving the proper functioning of our Presbyterian form of Church government *and that the issues of culture and integrity, insofar as they concern behaviour, power, and accountability, shall be examined by an external, independent body which will report directly to the task group.* The membership of the task group will be appointed by the Office Bearers of the General Council, in consultation with the Council.

Additional Resolution 3a. & 3b., p.22

- 3a. That a task group be constituted to assess the necessity of establishing a Survivor Redress scheme. This scheme would offer a formal apology to survivors of abuse occurring within the church, together with any necessary compensation and access to forms of support needed.
- 3b. That existing safeguarding guidance and Church wide awareness of safeguarding processes be substantially increased in the immediate short term.

Rev Ivan Steen

Additional Resolution 3c., p.22

- 3a. That PCI separate its obligations under the Protection of Adults at Risk of Harm from those of Child Protection which are very different; that structures be identified to take forward the commitments of the past, and which should be in a state of preparedness to meet the requirements of the new legislation; and that all appropriate measures to support and foster a safer environment for Adults at Risk of Harm be adopted.

Mrs Lesley McDowell