

The Bishop of Blackburn
The Rt Revd Julian T Henderson

November 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Archbishop Justin has set up a working group under the leadership of Tim Thornton, Bishop at Lambeth, to take a good hard look at the **Clergy Discipline Measure (CDM)** and with a view to developing recommendations for improving practice and future legislative revision.

Completely separately, and quite fortuitously, the community at Sheldon (Mary and Martha) have commissioned independent academic research into CDM and are working with Aston University on this.

As a personal request, I would like to ask you to take time out of your busy schedule to complete this research survey.

This is relevant to you whether or not you have any personal experience of CDM.

There is a dearth of hard evidence on how the CDM is currently functioning so this is an ideal opportunity for you to contribute to our understanding of this important church process and to ensure that it is fit for purpose going forward.

The first stage of the research is a detailed online questionnaire which I am sending you now.

A great deal of care has gone into the design of this, including Ethics approval, to ensure that your identity cannot be inferred from the data provided.

No personal data is collected. Age and ordination date is collected by decade. There is no geographical data collected at all.

At Bishop Tim's request, and for GDPR compliance reasons, I am distributing the questionnaire using the diocesan mailing list.

I have no other involvement in the research which is completely independent both of this diocese and the national church institutions.

The more clergy who complete the questionnaire, the greater will be the validity and usefulness of the research results.

For FAQs, including how the research project is structured and what will happen to the answers you give, click here www.sheldon.uk.com/cdmsurvey

[This is the link to the survey questionnaire](#)

If it does not work, please click here:

https://astonpsychology.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3pY4r6v97TfNmDP

or email cdm@sheldon.uk.com for a fresh copy.

If you have not been through CDM it will take you about 10 minutes or so. If you have been through CDM or a related disciplinary process/assessment then you will probably need about 30 – 60 minutes.

Please could you make your response before the beginning of Advent.

This questionnaire link is not personal to you and it is fine to share it with any other ordained Anglican clergy you know. The researchers are especially keen to seek out clergy who are currently under prohibition or have left ministry, so if you are in contact with anyone you think might otherwise be missed please forward this message to them or ask them to contact Sheldon directly.

If you need any more information, or have any concerns before taking part, here are contact details and websites for further information:

- Dr Sarah Horsman, Warden of Sheldon sarah.horsman@sheldon.uk.com
- Bishop Tim's Executive Assistant Adam Hobson adam.hobson@lambethpalace.org.uk
- Lead Researcher Dr Carl Senior c.senior@aston.ac.uk
- Sheldon's CDM project www.sheldonthub.org/cdm
- The Sheldon community's website www.sheldon.uk.com

I do hope you will be able to share in this valuable endeavour which has the potential to feed into policy and legislative improvements for the church.

As ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julian". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.