

**An Evaluation of the Clergy Discipline Measure (CDM)  
of the Church of England  
Participant Information Sheet**

This is a collaboration between Aston University and Sheldon (Mary and Martha). We would like to invite you to take part in a research study.

Take time to read the following information and, if you wish, discuss it with others such as your family, friends or colleagues. If there is any further information you would like before you make your decision, please contact the research team.

**What is the purpose of the study?**

To examine the lived experience of Anglican Clergy in relation to the Clergy Discipline Measure (CDM) with a view to making recommendations for improvement. The work is encouraged by, but completely independent of, the Church of England.

The CDM, enshrined by Act of Synod in 2003, was designed with the premise that it provided 'a new structure for dealing with formal complaints of misconduct against members of the clergy'. It replaced the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure, 1963 which was criticised for being 'complex, elaborate, expensive and slow' with outcomes that were too severe for most offences and not strong enough for the worst cases (the most common of these outcomes being the resignation of the cleric investigated). Fifteen years later there has been no independent examination into the lived experience of the new process.

**Why have I been chosen?**

We are recruiting the largest possible sample of clergy through a variety of channels. It does not matter whether you have any personal experience of the CDM or whether you are still in ministry now.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

To take part, click the link in the email you have been sent.  
If you have not been through CDM it should take you about 10 - 15 minutes.  
If you have been through CDM, please allow 30 – 60 minutes.

There may be a question on thoughts about taking your own life. Please be as honest as you can and feel free to talk a member of the research team if you wish.

At no point will your name or contact details be sent to the researchers at Aston University.

**Do I have to take part?**

**No.** It is up to you to decide.

## **Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

**Yes.** Your personal data (name, contact details, dates, diocese etc) are not collected as part of the research. After you submit the survey it will not be possible to identify you.

It is a legal requirement that you give your informed consent to take part. You will be asked to confirm your agreement as the first question when you start the survey.

## **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

While there are no direct benefits to you. However, the data gained will help us to understand the impact of the CDM. The design of the study means we need lots of people who have not experienced CDM to take part as well.

## **What are the possible risks and burdens of taking part?**

This is an online survey so if you are uncomfortable answering questions via the internet please do not participate. If at any point during the survey you feel uncomfortable answering the questions, please stop participating. If you have any queries after you have withdrawn please contact Carl Senior ([c.senior@aston.ac.uk](mailto:c.senior@aston.ac.uk)).

## **What will happen to the results of the study?**

The results of this study may be published in scientific journals and/or presented at conferences. If the results of the study are published, we will always make sure that your identity cannot be inferred.

At the end of the survey you will be given the opportunity to request a copy of the published paper.

The data that is collected will be placed on Aston University's open data server in perpetuity. This is now common practice and it enables people around the world to access the data. It will not be possible to identify you from your data.

## **Expenses and payments**

You will receive no funding for taking part in this study

## **Who is funding the research?**

Funding for the study is being underwritten by Sheldon (Mary and Martha) who are also raising money towards it from other interested charities.

## **Who is organising this study and acting as data controller for the study?**

Aston University.

## **Who has reviewed the study?**

This study was given a favorable ethical opinion by the Aston University School of Life and Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee.

## What if I have a concern about my participation in the study?

If you have any concerns about your participation in this study, please speak to the research team and they will do their best to answer your questions.

[A further page of Frequently Asked Questions is available here.](#)

If the research team are unable to address your concerns or you wish to make a complaint about how the study is being conducted you should contact the Aston University Director of Governance, Mr. John Walter, [j.g.walter@aston.ac.uk](mailto:j.g.walter@aston.ac.uk) or telephone 0121 204 4869.

### Research Team

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