

## Exemption to DBS checks for ministers no longer exercising public ministry

<b>Contact Name and Details</b>	The Revd Helen Cameron Assistant Secretary of the Conference asc@methodistchurch.org.uk
<b>Status of Paper</b>	Final
<b>Action Required</b>	For decision
<b>Draft Resolutions</b>	64/1. The Council receives the report.  64/2. The Council amends Section 11 para 13 of The Methodist Church in Britain Practice Guidance on carrying out Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks as part of Safer Recruitment for England and Wales ( 2015).
<b>Alternative Options to Consider, if Any</b>	n/a

### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and Aims</b>	Exemptions from DBS processes. Clarification of eligibility for exemption.
<b>Main Points</b>	Ministers no longer wishing to exercise a public ministry and therefore be exempt from DBS processes must make a signed declaration
<b>Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)</b>	Safeguarding policy and practice The Methodist Church in Britain Practice Guidance on carrying out Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks as part of Safer Recruitment for England and Wales (2015).
<b>Consultations</b>	The Connexional Safeguarding Adviser The Connexional Well-Being Officer

## **Exemptions from DBS checks for ministers no longer exercising a public ministry**

What follows is a proposed amendment to Section 11 Para 13 of The Methodist Church in Britain Practice Guidance on carrying out Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks as part of Safer Recruitment for England and Wales (2015). The amendment requires the minister who requires the exemption to make a signed declaration that they will no longer conduct a public ministry.

Section 11 Para 13 will now read as follows:

Checks are required for **all** ministers, provided that they are capable of a preaching or pastoral ministry ie a public ministry. Chairs should notify the Secretary of the Conference on an annual basis in October, of those ministers who have made a declaration that they no longer wish to exercise such a public ministry and so may be exempt from DBS checks. The final decision about whether the checks are required will rest with the Secretary of the Conference. The Superintendent should be notified of this decision.

Requests for exemptions should be addressed first to the Safeguarding Team who will check for any safeguarding concerns. They will be forwarded to the Secretary of the Conference for consideration.

A minister wishing to request exemption should complete the following proforma and send it to their Chair of District who will forward it to the Safeguarding Team.

## DBS Exemption Proforma

### Disclosure and Barring Checks for Ministers : Request for Exemption

I hereby request permission to be exempt from obtaining a DBS for the following reason.

- I no longer wish to exercise a public ministry and confirm that I will undertake no further public roles

Name

Signed

Date

Approved by Chair of District:

Name

Signed

Date

### \*\*\*RESOLUTIONS

**64/1. The Council receives the report.**

**64/2. The Council amends Section 11 para 13 of The Methodist Church in Britain Practice Guidance on carrying out Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks as part of Safer Recruitment for England and Wales (2015).**