

Safety and Security Arrangements for General Synod 2024

This document is intended to inform those attending General Synod of the arrangements for the safety and security of all.

General Synod Office (GSO) staff will be in attendance through the duration of the General Synod for the purpose of your wellbeing and safety. Staff will be wearing lanyards that clearly identify who they are.

You will be greeted on attendance and issued with a lanyard and name card. Please ensure that you wear your lanyard and name badge at all times whilst within P's &G's but remember to remove it when you exit the building.

If you are bringing luggage with you to P's &G's a member of GSO staff will direct you to the luggage storage area, where your luggage will be safe. Please do not leave luggage in any other areas.

New legislation is likely to commence later this year or in early 2025 which will require specific security measures to be adopted for events of certain sizes, including the use of places of worship. This legislation, colloquially known as "Martyn's Law", but which is actually the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill, will apply across the UK.

In 2024, we intend to "test-run" certain new security arrangements for General Synod based on our current assessment of what might be required by the legislation once it is enacted and implemented. We are therefore adopting the following measures for General Synod 2024, which will allow us the opportunity to assess them after the event, in advance of the likelihood of them being required in law by the time of General Synod 2025.

- An evacuation plan will be in place. Should this be required GSO staff will verbally inform you of which door / route to use for any evacuation.
- A "lockdown" plan will be in place. Should this be required GSO staff will verbally inform you and all exits / entrances will be secured for such time as is necessary.
- In the highly unlikely event of either an evacuation or "lockdown" it is requested that you follow any and all instructions from GSO staff as your wellbeing, comfort, safety and security are of the utmost importance.
- These arrangements are separate from fire alarm and fire evacuation procedures which will be explained separately.
- People attending General Synod who **are not** members or invited guests will be subject to search, using a hand-held metal detector. This will be undertaken by GSO staff. Members and invited guests will **not** be subject to search.

Mr John Wyllie, Head of Safeguarding, is the senior responsible church officer for all safety and security arrangements at General Synod 2024 and will be in attendance throughout. Any questions should be directed to him.