

Paper T1

MIND advisory group

Ministerial Disciplinary Process:
Statement from MIND advisory group
to Mission Council

United Church 2017
Church 2018
Reformed Church 2018
Church 2018

Paper T1

MIND

Ministerial Disciplinary Process

Basic Information

Contact name and email address	Dr Jim Merrilees, Secretary, MIND advisory group jmerrilees@urcscotland.org.uk
Action required	Mission Council is asked simply to note the statement.
Draft resolution(s)	None

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	Statement from MIND advisory group to update Mission Council regarding current review of Disciplinary Process.
Main points	Intention of MIND advisory group to review Disciplinary Process Update of Guidelines and Forms under Disciplinary Process.
Previous relevant documents	Ministerial Disciplinary Process.
Consultation has taken place with...	Members of the MIND advisory group at its meeting on 5 January 2018 – group is representative of all aspects of the process.

Summary of Impact

Financial	None
External (e.g. ecumenical)	None

Ministerial Disciplinary Process: Statement from MIND advisory group to Mission Council

1. This is a statement from the MIND advisory group to go before the Mission Council meeting in March 2018, simply to be noted by that body.
2. The advisory group has met twice – on 5 September 2017 and 5 January 2018 – for the major purpose of reviewing the Disciplinary Process in the light of concerns expressed by the Synod Moderators regarding their role within the Process and the experience of themselves and others involved in recent disciplinary cases.
3. Following in-depth discussion of concerns at the 5 September 2017 meeting, a sub-group was asked to research the disciplinary practices of other Churches and professions and consult the ACAS code and principles with a view to providing an analytical paper, establishing underlying principles for our Disciplinary Process and offering possible revisions to the Process in light of the research undertaken.
4. The sub-group reported to the meeting of 5 January 2018 and a full discussion took place regarding its observations and recommendations. The advisory group will continue this review at its next meeting on 11 September 2018. Any proposed changes to the Disciplinary Process in the light of this review will be presented to a future meeting of Mission Council.
5. The advisory group is likely to consult further with persons who have had direct input to and involvement in disciplinary cases in recent times.
6. The advisory group would wish to assure Mission Council that the current Disciplinary Process is robust and rigorous and continues to serve the denomination adequately.
7. The advisory group would also wish to inform Mission Council that necessary updates to the Guidelines under the Disciplinary Process have been agreed and will be on the website by the time Mission Council meets, while updates to the various forms under the Process have also been completed.

.....