



CHURCH of IRELAND GENERAL SYNOD
CHURCH in SOCIETY COMMITTEE
Legislation and Politics (RI) Sub-Committee

The occurrence of a general election and the resultant formation of a new government, and with it a new Programme for Government, within the last year has impressed heavily upon legislative and political developments within the Republic of Ireland. We have been monitoring these developments and will continue to do so.

A submission was made to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Constitutional Amendment on Children in which the Sub-Committee outlined some points of concern that it had with the draft Constitutional amendment, as circulated by the Oireachtas committee, as well as noting the points that we welcome in that draft.

Submissions were also made to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Constitution in its consultative process on the issue of freedom of expression and to the Director of Public Prosecution in the consultative process undertaken by his office on the practice of not giving reasons to victims or to the public when a decision is made not to prosecute or to withdraw a prosecution.

We continue to fully avail of the very welcome opportunities granted through the government's consultation process with churches and faith communities.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

- Continue to monitor issues arising from legislative and political developments within the state;
- Continue to resource, with analysis underpinned by research, those within the Church who are required to comment;
- To consult, when appropriate, those with relevant or expert knowledge of pertinent issues such as care of the elderly, protection of children and upon legislation relevant to marriage;
- To engage with parliamentary, government and civil/public service consultative processes to ensure the views of the Church of Ireland are taken into account.