

**Bill No.7**

**Proposer: Mr Mike Johnston**

**Embargo Until Delivery • Check Against Delivery**

The strategy of the RB Executive Committee includes the need to consider committee succession planning.

As you will appreciate the members of the Representative Body of the Church of Ireland comprise the archbishops and bishops of the Church of Ireland as ex-officio members, and one clerical and two lay representatives from each diocese or united dioceses, plus co-opted members equal in number to the number of dioceses or united dioceses.

Therefore, since the formation of the amalgamated Dioceses of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe, the number of members of the Representative Body has fallen from 60 to 55. It is from this membership that the members are nominated to the committees of the RB, including the Executive Committee and its sub-committees.

At the same time there has also been an increase in the demand from regulators in terms of governance, compliance and reporting, requiring specific skills which are highlighted in this bill. The skills identified, being expertise in the areas of finance, pensions, investment management, accountancy, human resources and law should not be seen as exhaustive but more indicative of the general skills required to adequately govern a complex charity like the Representative Church Body. We could have expanded this list to include property development or information technology, but the more important point is that the committees of the Representative Body require members with technical skills, and the needs of each committee will be unique.

The next point I would like to make is that this bill highlights the need to consider diversity of age, gender and ethnic representation, as well as ensuring that representation comes from throughout the island of Ireland. It is hoped that the introduction of this bill will allow the Representative Body to appoint co-opted members to increase the participation of younger members, improving gender diversity and improving ethnic representation.

Bill No.7 recognizes the skills and experience required to serve on the sub-committees of the Representative Body of the Church of Ireland, while providing a mechanism by which the Representative Body can appoint up to 18 co-opted members, previously 11.

I propose this bill.