

Bill No.8

Proposer: Mr Quentin Tegg

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The purpose of this bill is very straightforward. It seeks to update the current vestry member registration forms to reflect changes in society since the current forms were introduced. The bill does not propose any changes to the wording of the core declarations, though it does introduce a declaration attesting that the individual concerned is aged 18 or over.

It introduces a specific space for recording a postcode or Eircode, key elements of current address standards. It also introduces space to record an email address where a parishioner is willing to provide same. This latter element will be particularly useful given the extent to which email is used for parochial communications in this day and age. We did consider the inclusion of space for a mobile phone number but concluded that it is not essential for vestry member registration and would best be collected after registration as a vestry member has been confirmed.

The changes proposed also introduce declarations to meet the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation which have come into force since the forms were last reviewed.

In undertaking a redesign to reflect the above, the opportunity was taken to increase the amount of space available to record parish and diocese names, many of which have lengthened considerably since the form was last reviewed.

When discussing the redesign with colleagues, the idea of replacing the two forms with a single form incorporating a ‘tick-box’ option emerged – it is believed that this will simplify administration and indeed the completion of forms. Far from being innovative, this is a reversion to a format similar to that set out in the original 1870 Constitution.

I propose that the bill be considered in principle.