

Policy and procedure - The Temporary Ministry of Non-Ordained Religious within England and Wales

The term "religious" includes any member of an institute of consecrated life or society of Apostolic life, and the term "Province" includes any equivalent circumscription within an institute, such as a region or abbey.

The exercise of active ministry within a diocese always requires the approval of the Diocesan Bishop.

Religious who are attached to a Province whose territory includes all or part of the territory of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Religious who will be engaging in active ministry in any diocese within the territory of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales may do so with the permission of their Major Superior provided that they are attached to a Province whose territory includes all or part of the territory of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Permission will only be granted if the Major Superior is satisfied that:

- the individual is in good standing, and that
- there are no concerns, allegations or criminal convictions relating to any maltreatment of and/or sexual misconduct with children or adults.

A copy of this written permission should be sent by the Major Superior to the relevant Bishop and is valid for a period not exceeding 12 months from the date of issue.

A specimen document (Testimonial of Suitability for Ministry - non-ordained Religious) is contained in the Forms Library.

Religious who are attached to a province whose territory is outside the territory of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Religious who are attached to a Province whose territory is outside the territory of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and who will be engaging in active ministry in any diocese within

the territory of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, will require written confirmation from the Major Superior with jurisdiction in England and Wales that:

- the individual has permission to exercise ministry from his/her own Major Superior
- he/she is in good standing and that there are no concerns, allegations or criminal convictions relating to any maltreatment of and /or sexual misconduct with children or adults.

It is the responsibility of the Major Superior with jurisdiction in England and Wales to obtain this written confirmation from the individual's own Major Superior as to his/her suitability for ministry.

A copy of this written permission should be sent by the Major Superior with jurisdiction in England and Wales, to the relevant Bishop and is valid for the specified period of his/her stay within England and Wales, but not exceeding a period of 12 months from the date of issue.

A specimen documents (Testimonial for Suitability for Ministry - non-ordained Religious) is contained in the Forms Library and may be used to obtain information from the individual's own Major Superior as well as providing information to the receiving Bishop.