



Readers and LLMs with Permission to Officiate

In this diocese, Licensed Ministers - Readers and LLM's - change their authorisation when they reach the age of 70. The Licence is cancelled and usually the Bishop then gives the minister his written permission to officiate (PTO); provided of course that the parish priest recommends it and the Reader/LLM is willing to continue in active ministry.

As with all authorisations, the Bishop reserves the right to withdraw PTO at any time should circumstances make that appropriate.

Permission to Officiate is a diocesan-wide authorisation and not specific to any parish or benefice. Ministers with PTO are not shown in the Online Directory as belonging to a particular parish, but are listed under their Deanery. (This is the same as for clergy with PTO). Readers and LLMs who transfer to PTO are no longer *required* to have a working agreement and are therefore free to do as much or as little as they wish, but for many lay ministers who reach the age of 70, the level of involvement in their Parish hardly changes at all, and if lay minister and incumbent agree that a working agreement is helpful they are obviously welcome to agree one.

For those who have been active lay ministers for many years, transfer to PTO should be an appropriate opportunity for that parish to acknowledge the minister's past service (wherever that has been) and also to recognise that, in future, his/her ministry may not be based in the same parish, and may gradually reduce.

Permission to Officiate is subject to triennial review by the Bishop, on the recommendation of the Area Dean, and this is an obvious time for a minister with PTO to review his/her work load. Obviously circumstances can change suddenly or gradually in between reviews, and ministers with PTO are asked to notify their Area Dean and the Warden of Lay Ministry of any changes in their circumstances.

If a LLM or Reader serves on a PCC as a non-elected member, once they reach the age of 70 and are granted PTO, that ex officio membership ceases. (They may then serve as a member of a PCC only if elected at an APCM as a lay member in the normal way.)

DBS clearance, which is currently renewed every five years, remains an absolute requirement for all in active ministry - whether licensed or with PTO. Renewal of DBS is now dealt with electronically in your parish (by the Lead Recruiter) but we will send you a reminder when your DBS nears expiry. The requirement to be up to date with periodic safeguarding training, either CCPAS or C3, also applies to all ministers with PTO – this is laid out in Canon Law, and the Bishop will not be able to renew his PTO if the minister has not attended training.