

We have a measured, structured and prayerful approach which aims to help our understanding of the issues involved.

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### **Human Rights Act**

As far as the Human Rights Act is concerned, Article 6 refers to the *Right to a fair trial, the entitlement to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law and judgment shall be pronounced publicly*". The Act relates to public bodies (of which the Methodist Church is not one) and requires them (like courts, police, local authorities, hospitals and publicly funded schools) and other bodies carrying out public functions to respect and protect your human rights. The Act does not therefore apply; nevertheless the principles of Article 6 are reflected in Part 11 Standing Order 1102 (1).

### **Sworn statements**

You asked for advice about sworn statements. Firstly that is a matter of choice for you, we do not require statements to be sworn. If you would let me know who you intend to approach I can advise you about whether those approaches would be considered breaches of confidentiality but in the mean time you may wish to read Standing Order 1157 (11) and (12).

### **Other people**

If there are other people you think may be able to help us, by 14 October please would you send me their names, contact details and why we should hear from them so that we can consider contacting them for a written statement.

### **Breach of confidentiality**

In my previous letter to you I said that there may already have been a breach of confidentiality in relation to these proceedings. As lead member, and performing the role of "conducting officer" in accordance with Standing Order 1157, I asked you to sign and return the written undertaking by 27 September 2016. You were also advised that you may wish to take legal advice before signing any document. In accordance with Standing Order 1157 (4) (i) the matter where a breach has been alleged is in relation to the invitation process of a circuit minister.

I am asking you to re-consider this matter and return the signed undertaking in the next few days.