

# Paper R2

## Ministerial resignations

### Complaints and Discipline Advisory Group (CDAG)

#### Basic information

<b>Contact name and email address</b>	Adrian Bulley <b>adrian.bulley@urc.org.uk</b>
<b>Action required</b>	Acceptance of resolution.
<b>Draft resolution(s)</b>	<p>Amend paragraph 8.2 of the Framework to read (new words in red)</p> <p>Should a minister resign from the Roll of Ministers, or from their particular office, after a concern has been raised but before it has been considered by the Assembly Standing Panel for Discipline, the resignation will be accepted but the process will continue as if the resignation had not been tendered.</p> <p><del>The Disciplinary Process continues notwithstanding the fact that</del> After the Assembly Standing Panel for Discipline sends a matter to be investigated the Process shall continue notwithstanding an accused minister declining to cooperate, failing to appear at a Hearing, or declaring (or implying by conduct) their desire to resign from a particular office, the Roll of Ministers, the ministry or from the United Reformed Church, and also notwithstanding the non-appearance of any potential witness.</p> <p>Amend Appendix X paragraph 9 to read (new words in red)</p> <p><del>If a disciplinary case enters the Investigation Stage,</del> Once a complaint has been considered by the ASPD an accused minister may not be invited to resign from the Roll of Ministers before the case is disposed of, although the minister's attention may be drawn to the possibility of admitting allegations under the rules in Appendix Q. Should an accused minister in receipt of a stipend resign from any pastorate, role, or office, any stipend and associated benefits will cease. Should an accused minister nevertheless declare that <del>he or she has</del> they have resigned from the pastoral charge or other office formerly held, or completely from the ministry of Word and Sacraments or of a Church Related Community Worker, Roll of Ministers or from membership in the United Reformed Church, the United Reformed Church does not accept such resignations, and the Process is to continue...</p>

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## Summary of content

<b>Subject and aim(s)</b>	To clarify our practice that accused ministers may not resign from the Roll of Ministers when a disciplinary case is underway.
<b>Main points</b>	The current wording is not as clear as is needed to embody our long-standing practice that once a discipline process starts a minister may only resign from their charge but not from the Roll of Ministers. Ministers may not circumvent the church's control of its Roll by seeking to resign before a disciplinary process is concluded.
<b>Previous relevant documents</b>	
<b>Consultation has taken place with...</b>	

## Summary of impact

<b>Financial</b>	None.
<b>External (eg ecumenical)</b>	Other communions are entitled to know if, and why, a minister has been removed from our Roll. A premature resignation may seek to circumvent this, and it is not our practice to allow such circumvention.