

GENERAL SYNOD – JULY 2023
Item 6 – Questions - Friday 7 July 2023

QUESTIONS 40 AND 41
ANSWERS BY THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK TO SUPPLEMENTARY
QUESTIONS BY MARTIN SEWELL (Rochester, 390)

Q40

Thank you very much, Martin, and we were able to have a very brief chat earlier about this. So, er, this is my understanding, so my understanding is that I did see what I'm assuming was your original question. I didn't know that the question had been changed until I came to the, you know, till I arrived, you know, an hour or so before the proceedings started. There may be good reasons why the questions have been changed, but I don't know what they are. Erm, er, I think, erm, er, I think you deserve an explanation and probably should have been cons, no, you should have been consulted. I would like an explanation as well. I'm not a conspiracy theorist. Erm, I'm sure there are reasons that, that this is a confusion. I apologise for that, and I look forward to finding out a bit more about what's happened and then being able to, through other means, give you an answer to your question.

MS: Your Grace, I thank you for your grace and I look forward to hearing from you. We do need to lower tensions but this sort of thing doesn't happen, I'm sure you appreciate, doesn't help.

Q41

So, again thank you Martin and thank you for the collaborative way you've helped me approach this. Once again I think we just need an explanation as to why the questions have been changed—there maybe a very good reason—we just need to know it, but I think I also do want to be clear on the substantive issue of this question that, that it is my strong view and my consistent view that it is in everybody's best interest, and to everyone's benefit, obviously especially Martyn Percy himself, that an independent review takes place of the issues and concerns that have been raised, erm, and I look forward to that happening.