

Questions 40 and 41

Supplementary questions (Martin Sewell)

Q.40 Thank you, Archbishop Stephen.

However, the question you have purported to answer is not the question I submitted on 21 June. The question I submitted concerned a promised independent review into Dr Martyn Percy's complaint (and I quote) "*into the deliberate weaponsisation of safeguarding allegations, with intent to cause harm to me, perpetrated by senior clergy, church lawyers and church PR.*" Those quoted words have been excised. Moreover, your answer turns the question on its head by referring to a review "into the handling by the Church of safeguarding allegations made **against** Dr Martyn Percy." Receipt of my question was duly acknowledged on 21 June and given the early reference number 35 "in case we need to come back to you." No one did, so that when the Q&A Notice Paper was published yesterday I was shocked to read that both questions 40 and 41 had been materially changed without reference to me or my consent.

Despite the early submission of my question, when I raised the issue earlier today I was informed that my question as submitted was 'out of order on grounds of imputation' but unfortunately there was no time to confer with me before the questions notice paper was drawn up, seemingly due to the pressure on staff dealing with so many questions.

Were you aware of the unauthorised change in the wording of my question, did you or another person (if so, who) draft your answer, and will you now undertake to circulate to Synod members an answer to my question as submitted?

Q.41 Following my supplementary question relating to Question 40, (i) please explain why, when my question referred to “the Review in response to **Dr Martyn Percy’s complaint** of “*the deliberate weaponsisation of safeguarding allegations, with intent to cause harm to me, perpetrated by senior clergy, church lawyers and church PR*” your answer relates to “a review into the handling of safeguarding allegations **against** Dr Martyn Percy, (ii) confirm that the Council recognises the importance of the Review actually requested by Dr Percy and will now establish it without further delay, and (iii) that you will support an open independent inquiry into the circumstances of the change of wording of my questions and whether they were the only questions altered without consent.