

### Faculty Processing Times

The evidential basis of the comment reported here remains unclear. A data-driven account may aid understanding. So, to take the most recent month (June 2025), faculties were issued in response to four petitions that had been lodged using the Online Faculty System (OFS). Three of these were without objections.

One was issued within 19 days from submission to Registry. The OFS timeline shows petition started on OFS by petitioners on the 28.10.2024. Public Notice expired on the 23.5.2025. The petition was submitted to the Registry on the 2.6.2025. The Public Notice certificate was returned to the Registry on the 02.06.2025. The petition was sent to Chancellor by the Registry on the 03.6.2025. The petition was determined by the Chancellor on the 9.6.2025. The hardcopy paperwork was issued by the Registry on the 11.6.2025.

A second took 35 days to process from end of public notice, owing to a minor clerical error on the part of the petitioner relating to the public notice. A faculty was sent to the petitioner within 6 days of the error being rectified. The OFS shows the petition started on 24.2.2025. The petition was submitted to the Registry on 25.4.2025. The Public notice period ended on the 27.5.2025. The Public Notice Certificate was provided to the Registry with error on dates. The Registry corresponded with parish and sought confirmation on the error. Registry sent petition to Chancellor for determination on 20.6.2025. The petition was determined by Chancellor on 22.6.2025 (subject to clarification on Public notice dates). Clarification on error received from petitioners and uploaded to OFS 24.6.2025. The Hardcopy paperwork issued 30.6.2025.

A third took 75 days to process from end of public notice, owing to a delay (of 49 days) in the petitioner submitting the necessary letter of approval from the church's insurer. A faculty was sent to the petitioner within 26 days of its receipt. The OFS timeline shows petition started on OFS in Jan 2025. Petition submitted to Registry on 27.02.2025. Public Notice ended on 29.3.2025. Public Notice certificate returned to Registry on 01.04.2025. Registry was awaiting insurers approval letter, which was received on the 16.5.2025. The Registry sent the petition to the Chancellor on the 16.5.2025. The Chancellor approved on the 22.5.2025. The Registry issued hardcopy paperwork on 11.6.2025.

The fourth faculty, however, took a total of 6 months and 12 days to process from end of public notice period. A statutory consultation initiated by the DAC Secretary remained incomplete when the petition reached the Registry. The consultation (which elicited an objection from a National Amenity Body and incurred a delay of more than 2 months) was completed by the Registry on the Chancellor's instructions. The OFS history shows the petition started on 10.8.2024. The petition submitted to the Registry on 21.11.2024. The Public Notice expired on 21.12.2024. The Public Notice certificate was returned to

the Registry on 06.02.2025 (signed 16.1.2025). The initial consultation period was ongoing. The petition was sent to Chancellor on the 18.2.2025. The petition was returned from Chancellor on the 23.2.2025 with further directions to consult with the amenity societies. An objection was then received- letter sent to objector to ask if they were to become formal parties. The period to become formal party ended on the 31.4.2025. Registry sent the petition back to the Chancellor for further consideration on 30.4.2025. Chancellor returned the petition on 12.5.2025 with further directions. Registry then returned the petition to the Chancellor on 03.06.2025. Application returned from Chancellor on 22.6.2025 with full judgment to review and distribute. Faculty paperwork issued 2.7.2025.

The time needed to process faculty petitions varies, often – as the above indicates- for reasons beyond the Registry's control. The Registry aims to deal with faculty petitions as rapidly as possible. Parishes facing time constraints or concerned about delays are welcome to contact the Registry by phone or email. We will do all that is possible to expedite their application. In genuine emergencies, parishes are advised to contact both the DAC and the Registry, to seek an interim faculty, which can be granted in a matter of hours.