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EXECUTIVE DECREE

Whereas, with the Introduction to the “Directory on the Canonical Status of the Clergy”, the Bishops’ Conference of Scotland, in November 2009, approved said Directory for publication;

Whereas two years have now passed since that publication;

Whereas, in the light of interim canonical practice and of some important canonical questions raised concerning certain elements of non-codified “best practice” introduced by that Directory, a detailed review of it would appear useful;

The Bishops’ Conference of Scotland hereby decrees:

- the temporary suspension of the Directory as an authoritative guide for the matters it addresses;
- and, until such times as its non-codified elements have been appropriately reviewed, redirects those who have reason to have recourse to the law on the rights and obligations of the clergy, and to the procedures related to them, to the relevant norms of the Code of Canon Law and to all related and subsequent dispositions of the Supreme Legislator in this subject matter.

Given at Edinburgh on Wednesday 9 November 2011:

Signed:

+ Keith Patrick Cardinal O’Brien
Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh
President of the Bishops’ Conference of Scotland