

## Provincial Council 12 and the Debate on Catenian Restructuring

Brief for Province 12 Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025

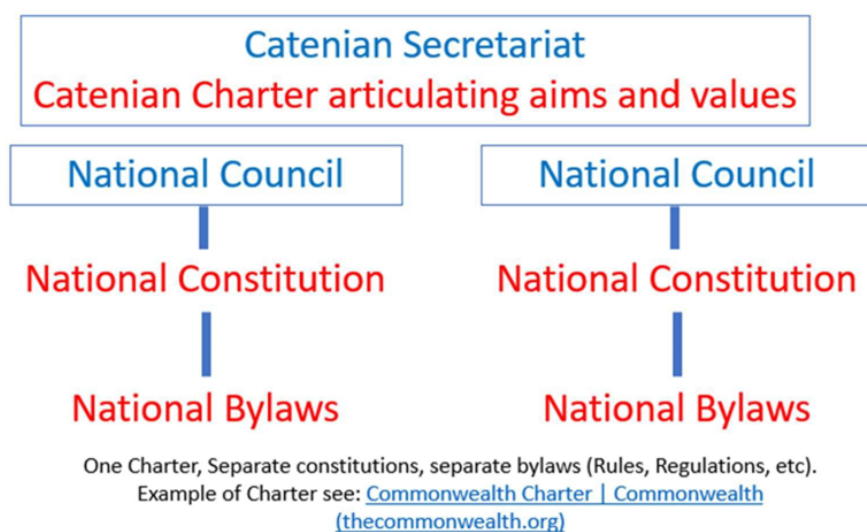
### 1. Background

- 1.1. In March 2025, in response to Brothers' concerns about the direction of the Association, P12 challenged Central Council on their plans for what they were trying to do with the Association and, specifically, what they were going to do with the recommendations of the Lillywhite Report.
- 1.2. Central Council's response was dismissive and said that any representations should be made to GBNC by the P12 Director.
- 1.3. I am very grateful for the guidance provided to me by Brother Louis Lillywhite and Brother Robert Derricott, two of the three authors of the Report. Brother Louis, in particular, has provided a lot of information and I am using some of it in this brief. Other Brothers, mostly Provincial Councillors, have continued to offer comments and support; thank you and please continue to consider this issue.

### 2. Principles

- 2.1. Catenian membership voted in favour of a federal structure. This vote (77.7% in favour) has been ignored by Grand Council (evolved into National Councils and Central Council). The Restructuring Report (often referred to as the Lillywhite Report) intended, as a minimum, that national councils and their circles should be granted greater autonomy.

#### COMMONWEALTH STRUCTURE



2.2. Greater autonomy for circles has now become critical. Sadly, three circles in Province 12 have closed in recent years. Gratifyingly, some circles who would not have been considered viable are still alive. Their modus operandi has changed somewhat in that they have become less formal but it is obvious to any visitor that the spirit of Catenianism lives on in these circles. Circles must have the autonomy to make changes or the decline in circles and members will accelerate.

2.3. Brother Louis says that “GBNC need, or should , take a view on the recommendations (and argumentation) of our Report, and then report back to membership, explaining which they accept, reject or have amended (with reasoning) and “we should be seeking a formal response to the Report *so that an informed discussion can thereafter be taken by the membership.*”

2.4. The Association is entering a period of review and debate about the motion to change “laymen” to “laity” which will mean the possibility of Circles admitting women. This may be a distraction for us and P12 circles but we should continue developing, in parallel, a response to CC/GBNC.

### 3. Recommendation for Province 12

3.1. Continue to develop our response to CC/GBNC.

3.2. Inform the other GB provinces of this campaign and invite them to join us.

Nick Tarr

Province 12 - President