**BASIS OF SEVERANCE** *[note 1]*

The congregation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (SC0\_\_\_\_\_) being linked with the congregation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (SC0\_\_\_\_\_) in terms of the Basis of Linking approved by the Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and effected on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , the said Linking shall be severed as from [\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_] OR [a date to be determined by the Presbytery].

Note 1:

1. This is the standard wording for a standalone Basis of Severance of a Linking. Usually it is very straightforward to achieve, but if there are any shared assets then the Basis of Severance will also need to deal with these and how they are to be split.
2. Where the linking is being severed at the same time as the congregations are joining new linkings or unions, and there are no shared assets to deal with, the severance wording can simply be included in the new Bases of Linking/Union rather than as a separate document. The relevant clause would be along the lines of:

“The congregation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (SC0\_\_\_\_\_) being currently linked with the congregation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (SC0\_\_\_\_\_) in terms of the Basis of Linking approved by the Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and effected on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , that linking shall be severed as from the date on which the linking/union referred to in this Basis of Linking/Union takes effect.”

1. Where the linked congregations are now uniting with one another (or joining a larger union), there is no need for severance wording as the union will automatically supersede the linking.