



Promoting Humanist and Humanitarian Values

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Contact the Humanist Fellowship of Scotland

You may like to view our celebrant profiles before completing the contact form below or e-mailing us directly at enquiries@HFofS.co.uk.

Our postal address is:

Humanist Fellowship of Scotland
Summit House
4-5 Mitchell Street
Edinburgh
EH6 7BD

Contact Form

Please complete this form and one of our celebrants will get back to you as soon as we can.

* indicates required field

Contact Celebrant:*

Select

Name:*

Email:*

Re-enter Email:*

Contact Phone Number:*

Subject:

-- optional --

Venue (if applicable):

Message:*



CAPTCHA Code:*

Submit

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New Register House
3 West Register Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

(0131) 314 4434

February 19, 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

As part of its ongoing programme of work on the solemnisation of marriage and registration of civil partnership, National Records of Scotland (NRS) is undertaking an audit. This audit relates to celebrants who have been authorised by the Registrar General to solemnise marriages or register civil partnerships on the nomination of a belief body. The purpose of the audit is to ensure that nominating bodies continue to conform to the statutory definition of a belief body. I am therefore writing to you to seek information that will enable the Registrar General to determine this issue.

The statutory definition of a belief body is "an organised group of people the principal object (or one of the principal objects) of which is to uphold or promote philosophical beliefs and which meets regularly for that purpose". When Humanist Fellowship of Scotland was originally required to satisfy the Registrar General that it was a belief body, the information requested in relation to that requirement included the following:

- A copy of HFS's constitution or statement of faith, containing the aims and beliefs of the group together with details on the appointment of office bearers
- The number of members, both locally and within the UK (if applicable)
- Details of how often HFS met to uphold and promote philosophical beliefs, such as calendars of events, minutes of meetings and so on, as well as details of how members are given notice of these meetings
- Information about the form of marriage ceremony to be used, where appropriate.

For the purpose of this audit, I would therefore ask you to respond within 28 days of the date of this letter, enclosing updated information and materials in regard to:

- Details of current office bearers (including any recent or proposed changes to membership of those offices)
- Current membership numbers, as at the end of 2018
- Details of meetings held since the start of 2018 to uphold and promote the body's philosophical beliefs. In relation to each meeting, information provided should include date, venue and the usual means by which members were given notice of the meeting
- A copy of your current form of marriage ceremony.



National
Records of
Scotland

I would be happy to talk through any aspect of this request, and can be contacted on the details above.

Yours

ROD BURNS
Deputy Registrar General

Burns R (Rod)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 March 2019 17:21
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: NRS Audit

 NRS Audit reply March 19.pdf

 The HFS Constitution (Amd Oct 2016).pdf

Dear Rod,

Find attached documents relating to the audit of the Humanist Fellowship of Scotland. Hard copies will be with you tomorrow.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Humanist Celebrant
Humanist Fellowship of Scotland
mob [REDACTED]
tel [REDACTED]
email [REDACTED]
www.hfofs.co.uk

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**HUMANIST
FELLOWSHIP
OF SCOTLAND**



Rod Burns
Deputy Registrar General
National Records of Scotland
New Register House
3 West Register Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

18th March 2019

Dear Mr Burns

**Solemnisation of Marriage and Registration of Civil Partnership
NRS Audit of Nominating Belief Bodies**

Many thanks for your letter of 19th February 2019 regarding the NRS audit and for the opportunity to participate.

We confirm that one of the Humanist Fellowship of Scotland's principal objects continues to be upholding and promoting our humanist and humanitarian beliefs and that we meet regularly for that purpose.

You may find it useful to have a little bit of information about our ethos and approach regarding promoting and upholding our philosophical beliefs. There are many ways in which we reach out to people in our communities and beyond which we find to be effective and productive means of sharing our beliefs as well as developing our thinking amongst our own membership. I enclose some information about that along with the specific information requested by you regarding meetings.

I also enclose information about our membership and the decisions behind that which were taken following great care and consideration.

We hope that you will find all of the information we have provided of interest.

Please do not hesitate to contact me again as we would be very pleased to participate in any further ways which may be helpful.

Yours sincerely,


Chairman, Humanist Fellowship of Scotland

1. Humanist Fellowship of Scotland - Constitution

A copy of this is provided – and please see below a little bit more information about our ethos and approach.

2. Humanist Fellowship of Scotland – Office Bearers and Members

Office Bearers as at 18th March 2019:

Chair	-	Graham Duff
Treasurer	-	Laura Baird
Secretary	-	Amanda Knani

Membership numbers as at end of 2018:

Celebrant members - 8

General membership - We welcome engagement but don't require people to be members to do that. In the past, we offered a no strings opportunity to become friends of the fellowship. We find that others welcome a gentle means of outreach and this is a more effective way of sharing our approach to life and spiritual thinking. People tell us that they want to talk without joining up or be forced into membership. At a time of need in life, it is not ethically right to force people to pay membership fees in order to have a celebrant help them. They feel taken advantage of when other groups' compulsory fees are used to fund campaigning they wouldn't want to take part in and to pay large salaries of office bearers. We make no criticism of other groups ways, there is no one size fits all. We have found over many years that people are more drawn to talk to us in a meaningful way because we give our time, energy, compassion and money without obligation. We welcome them to join our individual and group discussions, sharing and learning.

3. Humanist Fellowship of Scotland - Ethos and Approach

About us

- The Humanist Fellowship of Scotland is a non profit organisation, a belief body centred around humanism.
- Humanism approaches life with an ethical and caring eye, respecting each other and the world we live in.
- Friendship, community and sharing are at the heart of the Humanist Fellowship
- We're a group of people who share humanist values and approach to life - caring for our communities and beyond - supporting causes close to our hearts.
- We share friendship, philosophical and spiritual thinking, personal and professional development, guidance and support.
- We enjoy the privilege of helping people at important, special or difficult times of life, celebrating life love and precious moments.

Our Values

- Peaceful humanist and ethical lifestyle
- Friendship and sharing, learning and developing
- Accessible and approachable
- Give our best with empathy and integrity, equally, without prejudice
- Support charities with shared ethos and values
- Speak for, represent or guide those in our communities who expressly ask us to
- Creating a secular space that honours and respects the occasion no matter its location, scope, size, setting or style.

4. Humanist Fellowship of Scotland - Approach to Upholding and Promoting Humanist Philosophical Beliefs & 2018 Meetings for that purpose

The audit asks for information about the statutory definition of belief bodies in relation to meetings for upholding and promoting our beliefs. Upholding and promoting beliefs involves so much more than meetings. We have not been asked specifically to provide more detail but you may find it useful.

The Humanist Fellowship of Scotland has a primary aim of supporting humanitarian causes in our local communities, across Scotland and abroad. We have donated over £50,000 since our inception in December 2012 to causes compatible with our own beliefs.

As a part of our humanist lifestance, giving of personal time and energy is equally important to us (although not something we have attempted to quantify and don't feel that doing so would be in keeping with our ethos). For example, participation with charities and other compatible causes. End of life support and chaplaincy. Pro bono life celebrations for people in our communities with low means or facing challenging and life limiting circumstances. Speaking for those who find it difficult. Volunteering with other belief systems, sharing our similarities, differences and learning. Exploring opportunities to expand our minds and hearts through people, arts, culture. Lecturing to interested groups on Humanism and the role of Humanists. Collaborating with other belief groups, to accommodate and support families with multiple beliefs. We each promote humanism in our daily lives. When we are asked to conduct a humanist ceremony, it is imbued with the essence of humanism and this reaches numbers of between 2 to 200 people who take away a greater understanding of humanism and many seek out further discussion with us.

The audit asks for information of meetings during 2018 - this is supplied below. We hold gatherings where we welcome celebrant members and others interested in discussing philosophical and spiritual thinking. Gatherings are notified to our members, usually by email by those taking the lead in organising a discussion of interest.

HFofS Gatherings 2018		
8 Jan 18	East group	Death - learning and inspiration
14 Jan 18	West group	Friendship and sharing
15 Jan 18	Training	Wedding training completion
17 Jan 18	Management team	Online - continued to 22 feb
5 Feb 18	East group	Portraiture of a Life
17 Feb 18	East + west mini	Rabbie Burns and humanism

17 Feb 18	West group	Friendship and sharing
21 Feb 18	West group	Supporting and sharing experiences with local charity, MOOL
22 Feb 18	Management team	feedback to members
5 March 18	HFofS Group	Sharing, learning and supporting our communities
20 March 18	East Lothian group	Food for the soul - a taste of buddhist and vegan lifestyles
23 March 18	West group	Friendship and sharing
27 March 18	East Group	Friendship and sharing
29 March 18	West group	Supporting and sharing experiences with local charity, Beach Wheelchairs Troon
19 April 18	Management team	feedback to members
19 April 18	East Lothian Group	Sharing experience from kibbutz culture of funeral ceremony
23 April 18	East Group	End of Life care visit to new facility with other beliefs and faiths
5 May 18	West group	Approaches to personal development
6 May 18	West group	Supporting and sharing experiences with local charity, Dementia Friendly Prestwick
12 May 18	East Lothian group	Technology revamp
13 May 18	West group	Friendship and sharing
21 May 18	East group	Sand between our toes
30 May 18	West group	Supporting and sharing experiences with local charity, Vox Linnis
1 June 18	East group	Informal insights in social history and family dynamics
12 June 18	HFofS Group	AGM
10 July 18	East Lothian Group	Forty rules of love and humanist parallels
4 Sept 18	East Lothian Group	Friendship and sharing
12 Sept 18	Management team	management
16 Oct 18	East Group	Humanism and Role of Celebrant, Rotary Club Corstorphine
23 Oct 18	East Group	Meeting with Church of the Good Shepherd Murrayfield to explore supporting multi-belief families
5 Nov 18	East Lothian Group	Supporting and sharing experiences with local charity, wheelchairs on the beach
6 Nov 18	East Lothian Group	Supporting and sharing experiences with local charity, SIMBA
13 Nov 18	East Group	support and communication
15 Nov 18	Management team	management
15 Nov 18	East Group	Incorporating Jewish traditions into a Humanist ceremony
22 Nov 18	Management team	management
4 Dec 18	HFofS Group	Friendship and sharing
7 Dec 18	Management team	management
18 Dec 18	East Group	Festive sharing with other beliefs and faiths

5. Humanist Fellowship of Scotland - Current Form of Marriage Ceremony

Our form of marriage ceremony includes these features within a bespoke ceremony tailored to each couple:

- Words of welcome and congratulation
- The Fellowship, couple's beliefs, reasons for choosing this humanist ceremony
- Thoughts about marriage
- Expressions of love
- Exchange of rings or other symbols of marriage
- Personal vows or commitments
- Legal vows (compulsory)
- Declaration of marriage (compulsory)
- Signing marriage schedule (compulsory)
- Meaningful involvement of others eg readings, playing instruments, singing
- Meaningful traditions or symbolic gestures
- Non-religious blessing or well-wishing

Compulsory legal vow – I [name of partner A] accept you [name of partner B] in marriage. This may be added to according to the couple's preference by reference to husband and wife, partners for life or other statements such as solemnly and sincerely declaring, calling on family and friends to witness etc.



**Humanist
Fellowship
of
Scotland**

CONSTITUTION & STANDING ORDERS

1 Name

1.1

The name of the **Fellowship** shall be the **Humanist Fellowship of Scotland** (HFof S) the Fellowship.

2 Aims

2.1

The Fellowship shall promote throughout Scotland, the principles and practice of secular Humanism, defined as the moral, intellectual and social development of individuals and the community, free from theistic, religious and dogmatic beliefs and doctrines which is further defined in the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU) Declaration of the World Humanist Congress of 2002 (*Appendix 1*).

3 Activities

In furtherance of the Aims, the Fellowship shall endeavour to:

3.1

Attract and retain members as defined in 4.1a.

3.2

Represent its members nationally and internationally and foster contacts with Humanist and other like-minded organisations in Scotland and elsewhere.
Provide support, advice and resources to its members and the general public and selected organisations in the promotion of secular Humanist principles.

3.3

Support a diversity of registered charities for humanitarian purposes throughout Scotland and elsewhere, as determined by the Fellowship through the Board, by the payment of subscriptions, Fellowship contributions and donations, in the manner agreed by the Board of the Fellowship.

4 Memberships

4.1a

Membership of the Fellowship shall be achieved by the completion of an Application for Membership which is ratified by the Board of the Fellowship in accordance with 9.4 and on payment of a subscription, as determined from time to time by the Fellowship. Members are those who have demonstrated adherence to the secular Humanist ethos for the purpose of acting on behalf of the Fellowship as Celebrants for Humanist ceremonies and / or activities to be provided to those people who share the Humanist life stance. Potential Members must demonstrate competence and / or undertake training as Celebrants. Members will be registered with the Fellowship.

4.2

The funds received, through subscriptions, Fellowship contributions, donations and any other sources, shall be at the disposal of the Fellowship as determined by the Board of the Fellowship. Such funds must be applied in part to supporting humanitarian purposes in furtherance of the Fellowship activity in 3.3.

Members who have been with the Fellowship for a period of five years or more will be entitled to be considered by the Board of the Fellowship for a free humanist funeral ceremony. This to mean the ceremony conducted as a tribute and celebration of the life of the deceased member.

4.3

Members shall have access to a copy of the Constitution and Standing Orders in electronic form and on request, in paper form, from the Secretary of the Fellowship.

4.4

Membership is terminated if the member concerned either;

- a) Gives written notice of resignation to the Fellowship
- b) Dies
- c) Is removed from membership by resolution of a majority of at least two thirds of the Board of the Fellowship on the ground that in their reasonable opinion the members continued membership is not in the best interests of the fellowship.

The Board of the Fellowship may only pass such a resolution after:

- a) The member has been given at least fourteen days notice in writing of the meeting of the Board of the Fellowship at which the resolution will be proposed and the reasons why it is to be proposed.
- b) The member has been allowed to make representations to the meeting.

4.5

A person whose membership has been terminated in terms of paragraph 4.4 may, not less than six months later, apply to join the Fellowship with the prior approval of the Board of the Fellowship, if it is satisfied that the reason(s) for their membership to be terminated no longer apply.

5 Annual General Meeting

5.1

The Fellowship shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in April, May or June which shall be open to members of the Fellowship and specified guests as have been notified to and approved by the Board.

5.2

The financial year shall be from 1st April to 31st March

5.3

At the AGM, those members present shall;

5.3.1

Appoint the Office Bearers of the Fellowship;

5.3.2

Appoint a Board of the Fellowship;

5.3.3

Receive and consider reports by the Office Bearers on the work of the Fellowship for the preceding financial year.

5.3.4

Receive and consider a report by the Treasurer on the finances of the Fellowship.

5.3.5

Receive, consider, and if so advised, approve the independently examined accounts of the Fellowship for the preceding financial year;

5.3.6

Appoint an Independent Examiner to examine the accounts of the Fellowship for the ensuing year.

5.3.10

Debate and adopt or reject policies proposed

5.3.11

Receive and consider recommendations regarding support to be given to humanitarian purposes in furtherance of the Fellowship activity in 3.3

5.3.12

Consider such other motions properly submitted in terms of the Standing Orders;

5.3.13

Appoint or remove an Honorary President.

5.4

Notice of the date of the Annual General Meeting shall be given to all members and Friends of the Fellowship at least six calendar weeks before the intended date of the meeting, either by a notice in the Fellowship's web site or separate notice. This notice shall include the timetable of submission dates as determined by current Standing Orders.

6 Office Bearers

6.1

The Office Bearers of the Fellowship shall be the Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

6.2

The Office Bearers shall hold office for the period from the end of one Annual General Meeting to the end of the next and shall be eligible for re-election.

6.3

The Chairman shall provide leadership to the Fellowship and ensure that the Board of the Fellowship fulfils its role.

6.4

The Secretary shall be responsible for the day to day administration of the Fellowship and the Board of the Fellowship and shall keep members of the Fellowship and the Board of the Fellowship informed of past and future activities and events.

6.5

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the supervision of the funds and investments of the Fellowship, and for keeping accounts of its income and expenditure. The Treasurer shall prepare annually for submission to the Fellowship's Independent Examiner and subsequently to the Annual General Meeting, the Fellowship's accounts for the year to 31st March.

6.6

The Board of the Fellowship shall determine the role, responsibility and liability of the Office Bearers of the Fellowship together with the role, remit and responsibility of any sub-committees, set up under 7.13 of the Fellowship's constitution.

7 The Board of the Fellowship

7.1

The Board of the Fellowship shall consist of the Office Bearers of the Fellowship and a number of members as determined by the Board of the Fellowship.

7.2

Up to four other members of the Fellowship may be co-opted as required by the Board of the Fellowship.

7.3

If one of the Office Bearers resigns or dies, the Board of the Fellowship may appoint a successor from the membership of the Fellowship.

7.4

If one of its members resigns or dies, the Board of the Fellowship may co-opt a member of the Fellowship.

7.5

Any member of the Board of the Fellowship who fails to attend four consecutive meetings without good reason will be considered to have resigned from the Board of the Fellowship and will be so informed.

7.5

The Chairman of the Fellowship shall be the Chairman of the Board of the Fellowship.

7.6

The Board of the Fellowship shall pursue policies and actions in furtherance of the Aims of the Fellowship.

7.7

The Board of the Fellowship shall manage the affairs of the Fellowship in accordance with the policies established at General Meetings or other extraordinary meetings called or required

7.8

The Board of the Fellowship will represent the fellowship nationally and internationally and foster contacts with, encourage and support appropriate national and international Humanist organisations and other organisations who share the Humanist ethos.

7.10

The Board of the Fellowship may affiliate with, support and / or donate to as appropriate, other organisations in the furtherance of the Aims of the Fellowship.

7.11

The Board of the Fellowship may instigate and help fund a new Area Group if it deems there is sufficient demand or interest.

7.12

Sub-committees may be appointed by the Board of the Fellowship as it considers necessary, for such purposes relevant to the work of the Fellowship and the Board of the Fellowship shall appoint one of its members as the head, responsible for its role, remit, responsibilities and liabilities.

7.13

The Board of the Fellowship may confer or revoke Honorary Membership.

7.14

The Board of the Fellowship may confer or revoke the status of Distinguished Supporter.

8 Area Groups

8.1

Area Groups may be established and supported by the Fellowship in furtherance of the Fellowship's Aims and to:

8.1.1

Be a focus for area Humanist activity;

8.1.2

Enable members to meet socially or otherwise to discuss relevant issues.

8.1.3

Attract members of the Fellowship.

8.2

The name of Area Groups shall be of the form the 'Humanist Fellowship of Scotland, [location] Area Group

8.3

Area Groups shall appoint a Committee to manage and be responsible for the affairs of that Area Group. The members of the Committee shall be notified to the Secretary of the Fellowship.

8.4

The Area group shall be liable to the Board of the Fellowship in all matters arising. Minutes from any Area group meeting shall be sent to the Secretary of the Fellowship within seven days of the said meeting.

8.5

Area Groups may decide on their own Constitution, but no aspect of it shall contradict nor dilute the Constitution of the Fellowship.

8.6

Area Groups may receive funding as decided at the Fellowship's AGM.

8.7

Area Groups shall hold an Annual General Meeting in January or February and submit minutes therefrom to the Secretary of the Fellowship.

8.8

Area Groups shall appoint a Treasurer who shall be responsible for the supervision of the funds of that Area Group, and for keeping accounts of its income and expenditure. All investments of Area Group monies shall be limited to savings accounts.

8.8.1

Area Groups shall submit their annual accounts to the Secretary of the Fellowship for subsequent examination by the Fellowship's Independent Examiner on or before the 31st December

9 Ceremonies

9.1

The Board of the Fellowship shall elect the following from their number, such persons to constitute the Ceremonies Committee to be a sub committee of the board.

9.1a

National Ceremonies Coordinator;

9.1b

Assistant National Ceremonies Coordinator;

9.1c

Other committee members to be appointed by election from the Membership as the Board of the Fellowship determines necessary in Liaison with the National Ceremonies Coordinator and Assistant Ceremonies Coordinator for the efficient management of the Fellowship's ceremonies. The Ceremonies committee may co-opt no more than two other Members of the Fellowship.

9.2

Meetings of the Ceremonies Committee shall be at the discretion of the said committee and be chaired by the National Ceremonies Coordinator or in their absence the Assistant National Ceremonies Coordinator.

9.3

The Fellowship shall maintain a Register of Celebrants.

9.4

Registration of Celebrants shall be on recommendation of the Ceremonies Committee and after approval by the Board of the Fellowship.

9.5

Registration of Celebrants shall be reviewed annually by the Ceremonies Committee who shall make recommendations to the Board of the Fellowship for approval.

9.6

Only Registered Celebrants are entitled to perform Ceremonies on behalf of the Fellowship.

9.7

The Ceremonies Committee shall train potential Celebrants and organise, support and monitor Registered Celebrants.

9.8

The Ceremonies Committee shall be responsible for enforcing the Celebrants Disciplinary Procedure, Guidelines, Code of Conduct and Assessment Procedure, in liaison with the Board of the fellowship.

9.9

The Celebrants may hold a Celebrants Conference to provide a forum for the Celebrants.

9.10

The Celebrants' Conference or the Ceremonies Committee may recommend to the Board of the Fellowship for approval, fees charged by the Celebrants (Ceremony fees) and circumstances where fees should be waived on humanitarian grounds.

9.12

The Celebrants' Conference or the Ceremonies Committee may recommend to the Board of the Fellowship for approval, the contributions to be paid to the Fellowship by Celebrants for each ceremony performed (Fellowship contributions).

10 Conferences

10.1

The business of the Fellowship may be debated at conferences of members, for recommendation to the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

10.2

All members of the Fellowship in attendance at a conference shall be eligible to vote.

11 Special General Meeting

11.1

A Special General Meeting (SGM) of the Fellowship may be called by the Chairman, or by written request of not less than 30% of the members of the Fellowship, delivered to the Secretary specifying the precise purpose for which the meeting has been called.

11.2

If a SGM is called it shall be held as soon as practicable.

11.3

The Secretary shall give all members of the Fellowship fourteen days prior notice of the date, time and place of the meeting and the precise purpose for which the meeting has been called.

12 Standing Orders

12.1

The business of the Fellowship, the Board of the Fellowship and any Sub-Committees thereof shall be conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders.

13 Amendments to the Constitution

13.1

This Constitution may be amended only by a resolution passed by 60% majority of all members present at an Annual General Meeting, or at a SGM called for that purpose.

13.2

A motion to amend the Constitution may only be submitted by:

13.2.1

The Board of the Fellowship;

13.2.2

At least 30% of the membership of the Fellowship;

13.3

"Within three months, the Secretary shall communicate to all members, details of any amendments passed."

13.4

This Constitution must be fully reviewed by the Fellowships' Board of the Fellowship not later than 31st March 2013 and thereafter not later than the 31st December 2022 and either amended or re-instated as appropriate. The 'not-later-than-date' for the subsequent reviewing will be 10 years after each full review.

14 Dissolution of the Fellowship

14.1

Any proposal for the dissolution of the Fellowship shall be intimated in writing to the Secretary by not less than one quarter of the membership of the Fellowship. The

Secretary shall place this proposal on the agenda of the next Annual General Meeting or of a Special General Meeting if that has been convened or requisitioned for the purpose.

14.2

Any such proposal shall require to be approved by a two-thirds majority of members present at the meeting at which it is considered. In the event of dissolution, any funds of the Fellowship remaining after payment of all debts of the Fellowship shall be donated to those registered charities for humanitarian purposes being supported by the Fellowship in pursuance of 3.3 immediately prior to its dissolution or, failing that, the International Humanist and Ethical Union.

This Constitution was adopted by the Humanist Fellowship Scotland at its inception

on ...9th...of December 2012.

Amended April 2013

Amended 12 October 2016

Part II Standing Orders

1 Chair

1.1

At the Annual General Meeting, at Special General Meetings and at all meetings of the Board of the Fellowship, the Chairman shall chair the meeting, or in his absence, a member appointed by a majority of those present.

2 Agenda and Submission of Motions for General Meetings and Conferences

2.1

The Secretary must receive motions for any General Meeting not later than 28 days before the date of the meeting. Each motion must be submitted in writing and signed by the Proposer and a Seconder.

2.2

Notwithstanding 2.1 above, an emergency motion may be moved in person at the meeting only if:

2.2.1

The Chair rules that it is competent; or

2.2.2

Two-thirds of those present and voting agree that it should be debated.

2.3

No motion or amendment shall be debated unless seconded either in writing before deadline for submission or in person at the meeting.

2.4

An agenda for all General Meetings shall be issued to all members not later than 14 days prior to the date of the meeting. Members shall also receive the Fellowship's Annual

Report, the minutes of the previous AGM and all motions properly submitted together with nominations received for both Office Bearers and the Board of the Fellowship.

3 Standing Orders and Agenda Committee

3.1

The Board of the Fellowship may appoint a Standing Orders and Agenda Committee to be responsible for the agenda and matters of procedure at General Meetings and Conferences. The Committee shall consist of the Chairman, the Secretary, and up to four others from amongst the Board and Members of the Fellowship. The Standing Orders and Agenda Committee may co-opt other members of the Fellowship.

4 Procedures at Meetings

4.1

Business shall be dealt with in the order in which it appears in the agenda, unless the Chair with the agreement of the meeting decides otherwise.

4.2

Members wishing to raise business not on the agenda by means of an emergency motion must submit it in writing to the Chair not later than thirty minutes before the start of the meeting or conference, or, if there is more than one session, before the end of the previous session.

4.3

It shall be at the discretion of the Chair either to rule such a motion as urgent and allow it to be raised at the end of the meeting or to direct that it shall be placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

4.4

Every motion put in writing must be signed by the member proposing it.

4.5

Motions and amendments shall be discussed only after they have been moved and seconded by members present at the meeting.

4.6

The Chair may require amendments to be put in writing.

4.7

The Chair may judge an amendment to be not competent and reject it.

4.8

Amendments shall be discussed and voted on before the original motion is put to the meeting.

4.9

Amendments shall be voted on one at a time.

4.10

Movers of motions shall have a right of reply.

4.11

A direct negative shall not be a competent amendment.

4.12

An amendment calling for 'No action' shall be voted on first. If 'No action' is carried, the meeting shall proceed to the next business without further consideration of the motion or any other amendment to that motion.

4.13

A proposal to remit any motion to the Board of the Fellowship may be moved, providing notice is given to the Chair during the debate. 'Remit back' shall be voted on after the vote on all amendments and immediately before the vote on the substantive motion.

4.14

Any member who has not spoken in a debate may propose 'That the question be now put'. If this is seconded and the Chair thinks the question has had sufficient discussion, the Chair will order a vote on that proposal, without further discussion. If this is carried, the proposer of the original motion will have the right of reply, and the question itself will then be put to the meeting. If the proposal 'That the question be now put' is not carried, a similar proposal may be made after every two other members have spoken.

4.15

Any member who has not spoken in a debate may propose 'Next business' at any time. It shall be put to the vote immediately without debate and if carried by a two-thirds majority, the meeting will proceed immediately to the next item on the agenda.

5 Voting

5.1

Only members of the Fellowship shall be entitled to vote at meetings of the Fellowship, the Board of the fellowship and Sub-committees.

5.2

Voting other than for elections shall be by show of hands unless the Chair directs otherwise.

5.3

Subject to 5.5, the Chair shall have a casting as well as a deliberative vote.

5.4

A simple majority of those present and voting at a meeting shall determine the outcome of any matter voted upon, unless the motion is for the amendment of the Constitution or Standing Orders or for the dissolution of the Fellowship.

5.5

In the event of a tied vote for the election of an Office Bearer the result shall be decided by lot, in such manner as the Chair shall determine.

6 Nominations for Office Bearers and Board of the Fellowship

6.1

The Secretary must receive written nominations for Office Bearers and the Board of the Fellowship at least 28 days before the Annual General Meeting. Each nomination must be

signed by the proposer and seconder and must be confirmed by written consent of the nominee.

6.2

If no nominations are received in accordance with 6.1 then nominations may be taken at the Annual General Meeting.

7 Elections

7.1

If the number of nominees for any office or the Board of the Fellowship is equal to or less than the number of places, there shall be a confirmatory vote by show of hands.

7.2

Where there is more than one nominee for any office, election shall be by such method as the Chair with the agreement of the meeting shall decide.

7.3

Where the number of nominations for the members of the Board of the Fellowship requires a secret ballot, this will if possible take place using the Single Transferable Vote.

8 Notice of Board of the Fellowship meetings

8.1

Notice of the date, time and place of each Board of the Fellowship meeting shall be sent to every member of the Board of the Fellowship by the Secretary not later than seven days before the date of the meeting.

9 Quorums

9.1

The quorum at any General Meeting shall be 60% of the members.

9.2

At a meeting of the Board of the Fellowship or of a Sub-committee, the quorum shall be 60% of its membership.

10 Conduct of Proceedings

10.1

The Chair shall conduct the meeting in accordance with the Standing Orders. If a question arises which is not covered by the Standing Orders, the Chair shall rule in accordance with the normal procedures of debate and the Chair's decision shall be final.

11 Amendments of Standing Orders

11.1

These Standing Orders may be amended only by a resolution passed by two-thirds majority of members present at an Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose.

11.2

A motion to amend these Standing Orders may only be submitted by:

11.2.1

The Board of the Fellowship;

11.2.2

An Area Group;

11.2.3

At least ten members of the Fellowship of whom not more than five may be members of The same Area Group;

11.2.4

At least six members of the Fellowship who are not members of any Area Group.

11.3

These Standing Orders must be fully reviewed by the Board of the Fellowship not later than 31st March 2013 and either amended or re-instated as appropriate. The 'not-later-than date' for the subsequent reviewing will be 10 years after each full review.

12 Suspension of Standing Orders

12.1

Any one or more of the Standing Orders may be suspended by a motion having relation to a specific item of business and the proceedings arising therefrom, provided that at least two thirds of the Board members present and voting shall vote for the motion.

These Standing Orders were adopted by the Humanist Fellowship of Scotland at its inception

on 9th December 2012.

Amended April 2013

Amended 12th October 2016

Appendix

IHEU Declaration of the World Humanist Congress of 2002

In 1952, at the first and founding IHEU congress, a declaration with IHEU's principles about humanism was formulated and accepted as resolution. In 2002, at the anniversary congress of 50 years of IHEU, a revised version was adopted.

Humanism is the outcome of a long tradition of free thought that has inspired many of the world's great thinkers and creative artists and gave rise to science itself.

The fundamentals of modern Humanism are as follows:

1...Humanism is ethical. It affirms the worth, dignity and autonomy of the individual and the right of every human being to the greatest possible freedom compatible with the rights of others. Humanists have a duty of care to all of humanity including future generations. Humanists believe that morality is an intrinsic part of human nature based on understanding and a concern for others, needing no external sanction.

2...Humanism is rational. It seeks to use science creatively, not destructively. Humanists believe that the solutions to the world's problems lie in human thought and action rather than divine intervention. Humanism advocates the application of the methods of science and free inquiry to the problems of human welfare. But Humanists also believe that the application of science and technology must be tempered by human values. Science gives us the means but human values must propose the ends.

3...Humanism supports democracy and human rights. Humanism aims at the fullest possible development of every human being. It holds that democracy and human development are matters of right. The principles of democracy and human rights can be applied to many human relationships and are not restricted to methods of government.

4...Humanism insists that personal liberty must be combined with social responsibility. Humanism ventures to build a world on the idea of the free person responsible to society, and recognises our dependence on and responsibility for the natural world. Humanism is undogmatic, imposing no creed upon its adherents. It is thus committed to education free from indoctrination.

5...Humanism is a response to the widespread demand for an alternative to dogmatic religion. The world's major religions claim to be based on revelations fixed for all time, and many seek to impose their world-views on all of humanity. Humanism recognises that reliable knowledge of the world and ourselves arises through a continuing process of observation, evaluation and revision.

6 ...Humanism values artistic creativity and imagination and recognises the transforming power of art. Humanism affirms the importance of literature, music, and the visual and performing arts for personal development and fulfilment.

7...Humanism is a life stance aiming at the maximum possible fulfilment through the cultivation of ethical and creative living and offers an ethical and rational means of addressing the challenges of our times. Humanism can be a way of life for everyone everywhere.

Our primary task is to make human beings aware in the simplest terms of what Humanism can mean to them and what it commits them to. By utilising free inquiry, the power of science and creative imagination for the furtherance of peace and in the service of compassion, we have confidence that we have the means to solve the problems that confront us all. We call upon all who share this conviction to associate themselves with us in this endeavour.

IHEU Congress 2002.

Website: www.iheu.org

Stewart R (Russell)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 March 2019 17:15
To: NRS ; Marriage Mailbox
Subject: Resignation of [REDACTED] letter to
Attachments: [REDACTED] letter to Registrar.doc; [REDACTED] Registrar.doc

FOA Mrs Rodgers

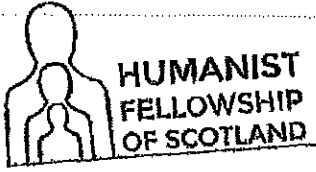
Dear Mrs Rodgers please find attached copies of letter sent to you confirming changes to our membership which affects your Approved Celebrant list.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Chairman, Humanist Fellowship of Scotland

[REDACTED]
Humanist Celebrant
Humanist Fellowship of Scotland
mob [REDACTED]
tel [REDACTED]
email [REDACTED]
www.hfofs.co.uk

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For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>



HUMANIST
FELLOWSHIP
OF SCOTLAND

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

27th March 2019

Mrs Lynne Rodgers
Marriage & CP Section
National Records of Scotland
New Register House
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

marriage@nrscotland.gov.uk

Dear Mrs Rodgers,

Approved Celebrants List

I write to advise of a change in our membership which affects your Approved Celebrants List.

As of 17th March 2019, [REDACTED] has resigned from the Humanist Fellowship of Scotland. As [REDACTED] is no longer a member or celebrant with our group, [REDACTED] can be removed from the list of those members we have nominated to solemnise marriages on behalf of the Humanist Fellowship of Scotland.

We understand that [REDACTED] has notified you of this [REDACTED] and has returned [REDACTED] letter of authority granted by your office on 1st December 2017 as required by that letter.

Should you need any further information or completion of formal documentation regarding this please do not hesitate to contact me.

I am sending this letter to you by email and by post.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Chairman, Humanist Fellowship of Scotland

Stewart R (Russell)

From: Stewart R (Russell) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 28 March 2019 08:11
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Resignation of [REDACTED]

Good Morning

Thank you for your email.

I will arrange for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to be removed from the list of approved celebrants on behalf of the Humanist Fellowship of Scotland.

Yours faithfully

Russell Stewart
Casework Administrator

National Records of Scotland
New Register House
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

Tel: 0131 314 4475

Fax: 0131 314 4532

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 27 March 2019 17:15

To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox <marriage@nrscotland.gov.uk>

Subject: Resignation of [REDACTED]

FOA Mrs Rodgers

Dear Mrs Rodgers please find attached copies of letter sent to you confirming changes to our membership which affects your Approved Celebrant list.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Chairman, Humanist Fellowship of Scotland

[REDACTED]
Humanist Celebrant
Humanist Fellowship of Scotland

mob: [REDACTED]

tel: [REDACTED]

email: [REDACTED]

www.hfofs.co.uk

1

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: Rodgers L (Lynne) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 08 January 2018 10:36
To: 'ask@humanist-ceremonies.org'
Subject: RE: Notification of Change of Address - Marriage Officer - Independent Humanist Ceremonies

*Updated
UR 18/1/18*

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail.

We will arrange for our records to be updated accordingly.

Kind regards

Lynne Rodgers
Marriage Section

-----Original Message-----

From: ask@humanist-ceremonies.org [<mailto:ask@humanist-ceremonies.org>]
Sent: 07 January 2018 10:28
From: NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Subject: Notification of Change of Address - Marriage Officer - Independent Humanist Ceremonies

Dear Sir/Madam,

For your information and attention and with reference to the subject and in conjunction with the approved Celebrants Guidance Notes we wish to inform you of the change of address for one of our approved celebrants.

As of today's date the following is the new address for -

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

As this will be in order.

Yours faithfully

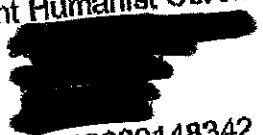
[REDACTED]
Marriage Officer

Stewart R (Russell)

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

ask@humanist-ceremonies.org
23 January 2018 13:04
NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Application for approval - Independent Humanist Ceremonies

Independent Humanist Ceremonies



tel 08000148342
www.humanist-ceremonies.org

Mr. R. Burns
Deputy Registrar General Scotland
Marriage and Civil Partnership Section
National Records of Scotland
New Register House
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

23 January 2018

Dear Sir,

Letter in support for designated members of Independent Humanist Ceremonies to be authorised marriage officer to solemnise marriage. Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977.

With reference to the above and correspondence dated the 24th and 25th of August 2017 regarding the training of an additional two Marriage Officers, I am writing to you as Chairman of Independent Humanist Ceremonies (I.H.C.) requesting/nominating that [redacted] now be considered for authorisation and placed on the Approved Celebrants List to conduct marriage in Scotland.

Name: [redacted]
Designation: [redacted]
Home address: [redacted]

Name: [redacted]
Designation: [redacted]
Home Address: [redacted]

[redacted] and [redacted] have successfully completed the I.H.C. marriage training course therefore respectfully request that they be granted authorisation allowing them to act as approved Marriage Officer to solemnise marriage in Scotland on behalf of and designated to Independent Humanist Ceremonies.

Both [redacted] and [redacted] are active members for I.H.C. and this letter testifies that the organisation supports this application.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Chairman
Independent Humanist Ceremonies

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

www.humanist-ceremonies.org

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This email has been received from an external party and has been swept for the pres
computer viruses.

6

Rodgers L. (Lynne)

From: Rodgers L. (Lynne)
Sent: 18 May 2018 10:59
To: 'ask@humanist-ceremonies.org'
Subject: Marriage Officers

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to our recent telephone conversations about the situation regarding [REDACTED] one of the marriage officers with Independent Humanist Ceremonies.

I am writing to confirm that, in view of the unfortunate circumstances, it has been agreed that IHC can train a couple of marriage officers with a view to them covering [REDACTED]'s weddings which have already been booked and for providing additional cover for [REDACTED] area of responsibility.

Kind regards

Lynne Rodgers

Lynne Rodgers
Casework Supervisor, Marriage Section

National Records of Scotland
New Register House
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

Telephone: 0131 314 4447
Fax: 0131 314 4532

Stewart R (Russell)

From: Stewart R (Russell) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 25 January 2018 08:30
To: 'ask@humanist-ceremonies.org'
Subject: RE: Application for approval - Independent Humanist Ceremonies

Good Morning [REDACTED]
I will arrange for the nomination forms to be sent out.
Yours sincerely

Russell Stewart
Casework Administrator

National Records of Scotland
New Register House
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

Tel: 0131 314 4475
Fax: 0131 314 4532

-----Original Message-----
From: ask@humanist-ceremonies.org [<mailto:ask@humanist-ceremonies.org>]
Sent: 23 January 2018 13:04
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Subject: Application for approval - Independent Humanist Ceremonies

Independent Humanist Ceremonies
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
tel 08000148342
www.humanist-ceremonies.org

Mr. R. Burns
Deputy Registrar General Scotland
Marriage and Civil Partnership Section
National Records of Scotland
New Register House
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

23 January 2018

Dear Sir,

Burns R (Rod)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 April 2018 13:42
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: [REDACTED]

Hi Rod

Sorry to bother you with this but it has been brought to my attention that [REDACTED] Marriage officer, Independent Humanist Ceremonies (Section K) conducted a marriage ceremony yesterday at [REDACTED] Aberdeen, in the evening [REDACTED] was the DJ. I have seen a couple of things recently on Facebook thanking [REDACTED] for conducting a lovely ceremony and then providing the entertainment in the evening, this made me suspicious. I had asked my team to watch and listen to anything said about [REDACTED] and the couple have just returned their Schedule from yesterday's wedding and confirmed that [REDACTED] was in fact the DJ last night

Is there anything that we can do about this?

I hope this finds you well

Kindest Regards

[REDACTED]

Senior Registrar
Registrar of Births etc
Business Hub 3
Ground Floor South
Marischal College
Broad Street
Aberdeen
AB10 1AB

Tel. No [REDACTED]
Fax No [REDACTED]

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Burns R (Rod)

From: ask@humanist-ceremonies.org
Sent: 04 May 2018 12:27
To: Burns R (Rod); Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Marriage Officer training

Dear Mr Burns,

As directed I am submitting this request in support of Independent Humanist Ceremonies (I.H.C.) being granted permission to train additional new Marriage Officers.

I.H.C. membership is continuing to expand with our membership now in excess of 5500, as a consequence requests for our services continues to grow. Currently requests for our services from the east and south of Scotland, especially Edinburgh and Scottish Borders, is extremely high.

As you will know we currently have only two Marriage Officers located in Edinburgh with one of them indicating that as of 2019 [REDACTED] will be reducing the number of ceremonies [REDACTED] conducts, it is therefore necessary, due to demand, for I.H.C. to train additional marriage officers to cater for this increase.

At present, to satisfy this demand, I.H.C. Marriage Officers are having to travel considerable distances in order to fulfil the wishes of couples getting married in Edinburgh and the Scottish borders.

As such I am writing to seek your endorsement for I.H.C. to recruit and train additional Marriage Officers, put simply we (I.H.C.) are only seeking to keep pace with demand.

I trust this will meet with your agreement and await your reply.

Regards

[REDACTED]s
Chairman
Independent Humanist Ceremonies
[REDACTED]
www.humanist-ceremonies.org

Independent Humanist Ceremonies (IHC) comply with General Data Protection Regulation. Your email and contact details are retained by IHC and your Celebrant only for the purposes of maintaining contact with you. This is necessary to provide our service and no details are shared with third parties. You have the right to have us remove your data at any time, however in doing so before the conclusion of your contract (i.e. conducting your ceremony) IHC and your Celebrant will be unable to fulfil their obligations to you.

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Stewart R (Russell)

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 31 August 2018 15:20
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox; McCafferty J (John)
Subject: FW: Response to your e-mail of August 26

How do -- for info; just gone out. Rod

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 31 August 2018 15:19
To: ask@humanist-ceremonies.org
Subject: Response to your e-mail of August 26

Dear [REDACTED]

Thanks for letting us know of the intention of your marriage officer in Edinburgh to retire towards the end of 2019. We're content that you recruit and train a replacement, and would ask that you apply for that person's authorisation at a date near to the retirement date of the current officer, once that has been established.

Yours

Rod Burns

Deputy Registrar General
National Records of Scotland

Preserving the past; recording the present; informing the future

New Register House
3 West Register Street
Edinburgh, EH1 3YT

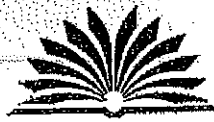
(0131) 314 4434

From: ask@humanist-ceremonies.org [mailto:ask@humanist-ceremonies.org]
Sent: 26 August 2018 17:46
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Approval for training.

Dear Mr Burns,

...ers has intimated intention to retire at the e
...y weddings are planned and booked years in advance, as such
to recruit and train a Marriage Officer in the East of Scotland to allow
...vices in this area.

...emonies (IHC) comply with General Data Protection Regulation. Your
...are retained by IHC and your Celebrant only for the purposes of
...ou. This is necessary to provide our service and no details are shared
...the right to have us remove your data at any time, however in doing
...your contract (i.e. conducting your ceremony) IHC and your Celebrant
...bligations to you.



National
Records of
Scotland

New Register House
3 West Register Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

(0131) 314 4434

February 19, 2019

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

As part of its ongoing programme of work on the solemnisation of marriage and registration of civil partnership, National Records of Scotland (NRS) is undertaking an audit. This audit relates to celebrants who have been authorised by the Registrar General to solemnise marriages or register civil partnerships on the nomination of a belief body. The purpose of the audit is to ensure that nominating bodies continue to conform to the statutory definition of a belief body. I am therefore writing to you to seek information that will enable the Registrar General to determine this issue.

The statutory definition of a belief body is "an organised group of people the principal object (or one of the principal objects) of which is to uphold or promote philosophical beliefs and which meets regularly for that purpose". When Independent Humanist Ceremonies was originally required to satisfy the Registrar General that it was a belief body, the information requested in relation to that requirement included the following:

- A copy of IHC's constitution or statement of faith, containing the aims and beliefs of the group together with details on the appointment of office bearers
- The number of members, both locally and within the UK (if applicable)
- Details of how often IHC met to uphold and promote philosophical beliefs, such as calendars of events, minutes of meetings and so on, as well as details of how members are given notice of these meetings
- Information about the form of marriage ceremony to be used, where appropriate.

For the purpose of this audit, I would therefore ask you to respond within 28 days of the date of this letter, enclosing updated information and materials in regard to:

- Details of current office bearers (including any recent or proposed changes to membership of those offices)
- Current membership numbers, as at the end of 2018
- Details of meetings held since the start of 2018 to uphold and promote the body's philosophical beliefs. In relation to each meeting, information provided should include date, venue and the usual means by which members were given notice of the meeting
- A copy of your current form of marriage ceremony.



National
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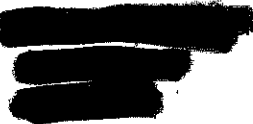
I would be happy to talk through any aspect of this request, and can be contacted on the details above.

Yours

ROD BURNS
Deputy Registrar General



**Independent
Humanist
Ceremonies**



08000148342

ask@humanist-ceremonies.org

Mr Rod Burns
Deputy Registrar General
New Register House
3 West Register Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

7 March 2019

Dear Mr. Burns

In response to your letter dated February 19, 2019 regarding your audit relating to celebrants who have been authorised by the Registrar General to solemnise marriage or register civil partnerships on the nomination of a belief body, please find the following information you have requested:-

The purpose of Independent Humanist Ceremonies, I.H.C., is to promote humanist values to people in Scotland primarily by providing Humanist ceremonies of many types. Through our ceremonies I.H.C. promote Humanism, a secular world view, and equal treatment of everyone regardless of religion, belief, gender or sexuality. I.H.C. encourage people to think for themselves about what is right and wrong, based on reason and respect for others.

I.H.C. train all their celebrants to conduct wedding celebrations, funerals, memorials, and naming ceremonies to a high professional level of service ensuring at all times that the ceremony is dignified, meaningful and personal within a broad Humanist framework while providing funeral services, free of charge, for children under 16 or those suffering severe financial difficulty, I.H.C. also provide free marriage services for those terminally ill.

I.H.C. office bearers are:-

Chairman Norrie Flowers,
Secretary Jeanann Andrews,
Treasurer Eleanor Flowers

I.H.C. membership at the end of 2018 was 6857, membership of I.H.C. is voluntary with no joining nor membership fees.

Public meetings held since the beginning of 2018 were:-

25th January 2018, House for an Art Lover, Glasgow.

20th February 2019, The Alona Hotel, Motherwell.

Information regarding meetings are circulated via I.H.C. website and social media outlets.

Members Meeting

1st May 2018, The Alona Hotel, Motherwell.

8th October 2018, The Alona Hotel, Motherwell.

Information regarding meeting circulated via I.H.C. website.

With regards to providing a copy of I.H.C. current form of marriage ceremony, there is no set ceremony as I.H.C.'s approach to the marriage is to provide a very personalised, non-religious ceremony, the people involved being at the heart of it, with their wishes at its core. There is therefore no set format or structure.

However, I.H.C. Marriage Officers ensure that every legal marriage ceremony is solemnised in accordance with the Marriage (Scotland) Act., including the required declarations in a location specified on the Marriage Schedule in a safe, dignified, meaningful and professional manner. I.H.C. Marriage Officers always ensure that the Marriage Schedule is correctly signed in permanent black liquid ink, using the names shown on the Marriage Schedule.

Should there be anything you wish to clarify or discuss please do not hesitate to contact me direct.

Yours sincerely



Chairman

Burns R (Rod)

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 04 September 2018 17:29
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Subject: Quick request

Importance: High

How do – I'm offering urgent comments on a draft submission re Humanist celebrants to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]s asked in an annex for the marriages carried out in 2017 by the following. Do you know these, or would it be the FER team - ?

Rod

A Quiet Revolution
Humanism in Scotland
Humanist Association Scotland
Humanity Hall
The Love Society
Alba Ceremonies

Burns R (Rod)

From: Rodgers L (Lynne) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 05 September 2018 09:49
To: Burns R (Rod)
Cc: Stewart R (Russell)
Subject: RE: Quick request

Hello Rod

Russell had kindly gathered the information which is as follows:

2017 Marriages

A Quiet Revolution - 8
Humanism in Scotland - 54
Humanist Association Scotland - 79
Humanity Hall - 37
The Love Society - 61
Alba Ceremonies - 55

I hope this is helpful.

Lynne

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 05 September 2018 09:20
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox <marriage@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Cc: Stewart R (Russell) <Russell.Stewart@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Quick request

Yes please – apols, should have been more precise! Rod

From: Rodgers L (Lynne) On Behalf Of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 05 September 2018 08:34
To: Burns R (Rod)
Cc: Stewart R (Russell)
Subject: RE: Quick request

Hello Rod

I assume it is the total number of weddings for each organisation.

We'll try and get you this information for later this morning – only Russell and I are in today.

Lynne

From: Burns R (Rod)

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: Rodgers L (Lynne) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 23 January 2019 16:31
To: Burns R (Rod)
Cc: Kirkland G (Gemma)
Subject: FW: Information updates and request from The Love Society

Hello Rod

Please see e-mail below from [REDACTED]

I don't think the request is unreasonable – one out, one in - which means they will still have 4 celebrants. Are you therefore happy to agree to the request?

If so I will inform [REDACTED] accordingly. I will also explain about temporary and full authorisation which I think will answer [REDACTED] query about 'registered' celebrants. It will probably result in [REDACTED] asking for full authorisation.

I'm not sure where we stand at the moment with regard to requests for full authorisation. We have received one from the Alba Society which was formed by former registrars. It now wants full authorisation for its celebrants but I am not sure if we should hold off meantime in view of the intended introduction of qualifying requirements or if we proceed as normal.

Lynne

From: Love Society <TheLoveSociety@hotmail.com>
Sent: 15 January 2019 14:16
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox <marriage@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Subject: Information updates and request from The Love Society

Marriage Section
New Register House
3 West Register Street
Edinburgh
Scotland
EH1 3YT

Dear Ms Rodgers
Good Afternoon, I am writing about the following matters:

1. To notify you of a celebrant who has left.
2. A request to you to consider one new replacement celebrant.
3. A request regarding registered and temporary celebrants.

Sent: 04 September 2018 17:29

To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox <marriage@nrscotland.gov.uk>

Subject: Quick request

Importance: High

How do – I'm offering urgent comments on a draft submission re Humanist celebrants to [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]s asked in an annex for the marriages carried out in 2017 by the following. Do you know these, or would it be the FER team - ?

Rod

A Quiet Revolution
Humanism in Scotland
Humanist Association Scotland
Humanity Hall
The Love Society
Alba Ceremonies

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: Rodgers L (Lynne) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 08 February 2019 09:21
To: 'Love Society'
Subject: FW: Information updates and request from The Love Society

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to my e-mail below I am pleased to inform you that it has been agreed that [REDACTED] can be granted temporary authorisation to conduct wedding ceremonies on behalf of The Love Society. We will hold on to the letters of support until we receive [REDACTED] first request for authorisation.

I note that [REDACTED] is no longer with The Love Society and I will arrange for our records to be updated accordingly. ✓ Done 12. 4/2.

With regard to the registration office making reference to a 'registered' celebrant I can only assume that the registrars were asking if you were an approved celebrant i.e. you had authorisation to conduct the wedding.

Marriage celebrants who are affiliated to and supported by a prescribed religious or belief body have automatic authorisation to conduct wedding ceremonies in Scotland as prescribed bodies are allowed under our marriage law to authorise their own celebrants.

Marriage celebrants who are not with prescribed bodies must be authorised by the Registrar General either under Section 9 of the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977 or temporarily authorised under Section 12 of the 1977 Act. Celebrants who are authorised under Section 9 are granted a full (3 year period) of authorisation which can be renewed on the expiry of that authorisation. Their names are kept on our register of approved celebrants which all registrars have access to. These celebrants are with large and/or well established organisations.

I hope that this explanation is helpful.

Kind regards

Lynne Rodgers
Marriage Section

From: Rodgers L (Lynne) On Behalf Of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 21 January 2019 14:59
To: Love Society <TheLoveSociety@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: Information updates and request from The Love Society

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail.

We hope to be in a position to reply soon.

Kind regards

Burns R (Rod)

From: Stewart R (Russell)
Sent: 15 February 2019 08:43
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Nominators Details
Attachments: Renomination Exercise - Group 1 - Datafile - A Nominators Datafile.doc

Hi Rod

I have attached the list of nominators and included the rest in the table below

I have also included The Alba Society and A Quiet Revolution just in case they were to be included too.

The Love Society	Ms Marion McGunnigle Chairperson The Love Society 66 Rockmount Avenue Barrhead Glasgow G78 2HL
Humanity Hall	Mr Bryan S Begg Secretary Humanity Hall Richmond House Richmond Road Huntly, AB54 8BG
Humanist Association Scotland	Mr Duncan F Robertson Chairperson Humanist Association Scotland 30 Liberton Gardens Edinburgh EH16 6JR
The Alba Society	Mrs Tracey Taskan Chairperson 62 Hyslop Road Stevenston KA20 6HP
Scottish Spiritualist Churches	Mrs Kathleen M Lawrence 3 MacLean Grove Stewartfield East Kilbride G74 4TJ
A Quiet Revolution	Ms Barbara Chalmers A Quiet Revolution 43 Craigbank

Sauchie
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FK10 3EG

I hope this helps, good luck

Thanks

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Casework Administrator

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