

11
16
Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 January 2018 18:49
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Subject: RE: Request to Solemnize Marriage

Lynne

Many thanks for your reply. Please accept my apology for submitting this request a tad too early. As we no longer have approved status, we (at the Association) recognise the importance of submitting our requests as soon as possible. I'm sure you are aware that if we fail to do this, it can cause some embarrassment if couples submit their paperwork very promptly.

That said, I realise just how busy your department is and I will of course re-submit this request later in the month. I trust you had a lovely Christmas break and all the best for 2018.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
Humanist Celebrant
Humanist Association Scotland

[REDACTED]
www.humanistassociationscotland.com

From: marriage@nrscotland.gov.uk
Sent: 05 January 2018 10:22
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Request to Solemnize Marriage

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail.

Please note that we do not consider requests for temporary authorisation earlier than 3 months before the date of the wedding.

As the two marriages are not until April and we are extremely busy with weddings taking place between now and March, can I please ask that you resubmit your request towards the end of January when both weddings will be within the 3 month notice period.

Kind regards

Lynne

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 January 2018 22:02
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Subject: Request to Solemnize Marriage

Dear Sir/Madam

Humanist Association Scotland - Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977

In accordance with your direction, I would like to apply to solemnise the following (and attached) behalf of the Humanist Association Scotland.

Date	Names	Location
7 th April 2018	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
21 st April 2018	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

I trust this will be in order and thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Humanist Celebrant
Humanist Association Scotland
[REDACTED]
www.humanistassociationscotland.com

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Tha am post-d seo (agus faldhle neo ceanglan còmhla ris) dhan neach neo luchd-ainmichte a-mhàin. Chan eil e ceadachd a chleachdadh ann an dòigh sam bith, a' toirt a-steach còraichean, foillseachadh neo sgaoileadh, gun chead. Ma 's e is gun d'fhuair sibh seo gun fhiosd', bu choir cur às dhan phost-d agus lethbhreac sam bith air an t-siostam agaibh agus fios a' leigeil chun neach a' sgaoil am post-d gun dàil. Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Rìghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Rìghaltas na h-Alba.

HAS

HUMANIST ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND

11

W/14

Mrs Lynne Rodgers
Marriage and CP Section
New Register House
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

17th January 2018

Re: Humanist Association Scotland

Dear Mrs Rodgers

I understand there have been some recent issues where requests for temporary authority to solemnize some marriages have been submitted by the Association's celebrants a little too early; in that they were a few days prior to the three-month period.

I sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused your Section and we will ensure that it doesn't happen again.

If I may point out in our defence, the reason we have to be so quick off the mark is to avoid the scenario that sometimes occurs when couples are also quick off the mark and call into the Registrar's office to submit their M10's on the dot. Some have at that point been told that the celebrant named within their M10 hasn't permission to conduct their wedding; which as you might imagine causes them some concern and we have to then deal with the couple to further explain the procedures involved.

When you and I spoke in July 2017, at the time I moved from The Humanist Fellowship of Scotland to form the Association; you explained that we would have to revert from being approved celebrants to temporary authorities. I fully understood the requirement that we must do this as we would be treated as a new organisation.

You did also mention it would at least be a few months before we might be considered as approved celebrants. As we are now over seven months in, and with the Association running well and busy on all fronts, and with our membership growing steadily, I'm

hoping if there is any possibility that we might now be granted approved status.

Said a year or two



National
Records of
Scotland

17
Marriage and CP Section
New Register House
Edinburgh EH1 3YT
Tel: 0131 314 4447
e-mail: marriage@nrscotland.gov.uk

[REDACTED]
Chairman
Humanist Association Scotland
[REDACTED]

Your ref:

Our ref: R103/3/489 - Humanist
Association Scotland

Date: 26 January 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

HUMANIST ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND

Thank you for your letter dated 17 January 2018 requesting that celebrants with the Humanist Association Scotland be granted full authorisation (3 year period).

It is NRS policy that marriage celebrants with organisations which are new to us, regardless of whether they are religious or belief bodies, are only considered for and granted temporary authorisation on each occasion they are asked to conduct a particular wedding. This is for an initial period of about two years after which they can be considered for a full authorisation. Full authorisation depends on the size of the membership of an organisation and the number of weddings the celebrant has conducted.

While I appreciate the fact that you and your celebrants are experienced and conscientious, the fact is your organisation is new to us and has only recently been established. In keeping with our policy, we have to treat your organisation in the same way as every organisation which is new to us. Therefore we are only prepared to continue granting you and your celebrants temporary authorisations for the time being.

With regard to the timescale for submitting requests, as you are aware this should be no earlier than 3 months before the date of the wedding. I would suggest that you advise couples that you are required to apply for written authorisation and that you can only do this within 3 months of the wedding date. Therefore the relevant registrar may not have a copy of this at the time they submit their notices but it will be forthcoming. Hopefully this will alleviate any concerns couples may have.

I am sorry that my reply will be a disappointment to you but I hope you appreciate that we have to adhere to our policy.

Yours sincerely

MRS L RODGERS
Casework Supervisor

HAS

HUMANIST ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND

Marriage and Civil Partnership section
General Register Office for Scotland
New Register House
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

Your Ref: R103/1/482

18 October 2018

Humanist Association Scotland

Dear Mrs Rodgers 19/10

Thank you for your letter of 11th October referenced as above.

I hope I can allay any concerns you may have about the expansion of the Humanist Association Scotland. We now have six Celebrants covering the whole of Scotland, in addition to many other members, but have no current intentions to request a further increase our celebrant members in the foreseeable future. We do hope you will consider us for approved status in accordance with your guidelines in the not too distant future?

The Humanist Association Scotland is a not for profit organisation that works with the community of Scotland; primarily conducting funeral, naming and wedding ceremonies as you know.

The principal income received by the Association, in accordance with our ethos as humanists, goes directly to the community through the registered charitable causes we support.

That said we are also striving to encourage our members and those who wish to participate to join in our community activities and we in theirs; hill walking is one example, see enclosed article, but anything that encourages people to get together as a community is our principal humanist aim.

I am attaching some articles / letters and receipts which relate to our work FYI. You might also note that [redacted] who is on our Board, but not a Celebrant, was recently given an award for the work [redacted] carries out for World Child Cancer; one of the charities we support as you will see from some of the attached paperwork.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]
Chair - Humanist Association Scotland

[redacted]
www.humanistassociationscotland.com

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)



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 Association 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 HAS'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 HAS 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: Rodgers I. (Lynne) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 22 February 2019 08:35
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: FW: Mr Burns Letter of 19th February 2019
Attachments: Response to letter of 19th February.docx; The Ceremony.docx

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 February 2019 07:38
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox <marriage@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Subject: Mr Burns Letter of 19th February 2019

Dear Mr. Burns

In response to your letter of 19th February I provide the following information as attached.
If there is anything further you require please let me know.


With best wishes

[REDACTED]
Humanist Celebrant
Humanist Association Scotland

[REDACTED]
www.humanistassociationscotland.com

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HUMANIST ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND



Marriage and Civil Partnership section
General Register Office for Scotland
New Register House
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

Your Ref: Mr Burns letter of February 2019

21st February 2019

Humanist Association Scotland

Dear Mr Burns

In response to your letter of February 19th as above, I provide the following information.

Our Current Office bearers are:

Chair – Duncan Frizzell Robertson

Treasurer – Rachel Donald

Secretary & Media – Evonne McLaughlin & Sharon Short (*Taken over from PA Robertson*)

Board Member – Prof. OB Eden

Our current Membership numbers are 353 within Scotland and 47 Overseas.

Details of our meetings are currently circulated through our media sources such as Email and Facebook, but with plans to further develop this.

Our last four meetings were held as follows:

28th March 2018 – Millennium Hotel Glasgow

27th June 2018 - Jury's Inn Aberdeen

3rd October 2018 – Signet Library Edinburgh

23rd January 2019 V&A Museum Dundee

Copy of a Current Marriage ceremony.

All the Associations Celebrants work in a similar way as is outlined in our current training manual, but each Celebrant has his or her own personal style. I attach as a sample a ceremony from January 2019.

Yours sincerely


Chair - Humanist Association Scotland


www.humanistassociationscotland.com

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: Rodgers L (Lynne) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 22 February 2018 12:07
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Celebrant Authorisation

Hello [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] does not have authorisation at the moment.

The CHA has been given permission to train 4 new marriage celebrants but so far no request had been made for nomination forms in respect of these celebrants to be sent out so that they can be given a full (3 year) authorisation. I am not sure if [REDACTED] is one of the new ones.

Kind regards

Lynne

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 February 2018 10:38
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Subject: Celebrant Authorisation

Good morning,

I have a couple getting married on [REDACTED]. The celebrant is a Humanist with the Caledonian HA. Can I just check that [REDACTED] has applied for the authorisation? [REDACTED] name is [REDACTED]

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Senior Registrar Births, Deaths, Marriages/Civil Partnerships
Customer Advice and Support Services
Customer And Communities Department
Scottish Borders Council
Peebles Registration Office
Chambers Institute, High Street, Peebles
EH45 8AG
Tel 01721 723817

or

Tel: 01835 824000, Ext 8701

Email: [REDACTED]
www.scotborders.gov.uk/registrars
www.scotborders.gov.uk/weddings

Scottish Borders Registration Service are working in partnership with the Home Office to stop Sham and Forced Marriage/Civil Partnership.

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Stewart R (Russell)

From: Stewart R (Russell) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 05 March 2018 12:05
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: New Celebrant Nomination Dates

Good Afternoon

I will arrange for the forms to be sent out today.


Yours faithfully

Russell Stewart
Casework Administrator

National Records of Scotland
New Register House
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

Tel: 0131 314 4475
Fax: 0131 314 4532

4 Forms sent

 5/3/18

Burns R (Rod)

From: Rodgers L (Lynne)
Sent: 19 April 2018 12:53
To: NRS : FER Support Mailbox
Cc: Burns R (Rod); McCafferty J (John)
Subject: FER News

Hello

I should be grateful if you would put the following on FER as a scrolling news item and let it run until 19 October 2018;

"Caledonian Humanist Association"

Registrars are reminded that celebrants with the Caledonian Humanist Association (CHA) can be found in Section K as they have now been given full authorisation.

Registrars are asked to contact NRS Marriage Section if they are unsure or have any queries about a celebrant."

Many thanks

Lynne

Lynne Rodgers
Casework Supervisor

National Records of Scotland
New Register House
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

Telephone: 0131 314 4447
Fax: 0131 314 4532

Burns R (Rod)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 May 2018 12:18
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Caledonian Humanist Association
Attachments: Screen Shot 2018-05-15 at 17.09.57.png; Screen Shot 2018-05-15 at 17.10.06.png; Screen Shot 2018-05-15 at 17.10.16.png; Screen Shot 2018-05-15 at 17.10.26.png; Screen Shot 2018-05-15 at 17.10.34.png

Hi Rod

Hope you are well.

We have had some issues with the public mistaking us for the Caledonian Humanist Association recently and I thought it was a good example of what we try to articulate in terms of damage.

This is specific to funerals but involved a [REDACTED] being publicly humiliated in the press. We understand, the source of the story was Caledonian Humanist Association as was the story the previous weeks regarding 'rogue Celebrants'. We were contacted via private message through our main Humanist Society Scotland Facebook account and there was an exchange between the enquirer and [REDACTED]. The enquirer later went on to post the whole conversation on FB - not something that concerned us too much but the frustration that the public are expressing such serious issues about individuals and associating them with us is certainly a problem.

We were subsequently contacted by another member of the public requesting who regulates the Caledonian Humanist Association for weddings and funerals - we pointed them in the direction of your office.

On a related aside, I notice [REDACTED] is now running a paid Facebook advert for [REDACTED]. This alongside the individual paid adverts Celebrants from Caledonian Humanist Association (and occasionally other groups) take out in the Scottish Wedding Directory magazine and their online directory <https://www.scottishweddingdirectory.co.uk/directory-category/registry-offices-celebrants/> continues to cause concern.

We are very clear that Celebrants cannot, as individuals take out paid advertising to market themselves; this extends to but is not limited to Facebook adverts, google adwords, online directories and printed ads. We understood this was required position (one that we agree with) however, it seems that individuals are bombarding couples with themselves; not promoting their belief body as would be expected. We do not want a free for all and think it's important that members of the public are brought to Humanism not to an individual who markets themselves aggressively. However, with the current landscape so uneven I wanted clarification if individual Celebrants are permitted to advertise themselves in any way they wish (from an NRS point of view) as we may need to reluctantly reconsider our position.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Director of Services
Humanist Society Scotland

Please note my core days of work are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

M: [REDACTED] | E: [REDACTED]

Humanist Society Scotland

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Burns R (Rod)

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 24 May 2018 13:38
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association

Thanks [REDACTED] – no, I'd agree with your final statement, and any evidence of aggressive personal marketing would be very welcome – I can add this to the suite of enforcement material. Incidentally, when is your board meeting again? Is it June 6? I'll be on leave next week but back before then, if there's a good time to call and catch up - ?

Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 May 2018 12:18
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Caledonian Humanist Association

Hi Rod

Hope you are well.

We have had some issues with the public mistaking us for the Caledonian Humanist Association recently and I thought it was a good example of what we try to articulate in terms of damage.

This is specific to funerals but involved a [REDACTED] being publicly humiliated in the press. We understand, the source of the story was Caledonian Humanist Association as was the story the previous weeks regarding 'rogue Celebrants'. We were contacted via private message through our main Humanist Society Scotland Facebook account and there was an exchange between the enquirer and [REDACTED]. The enquirer later went on to post the whole conversation on FB - not something that concerned us too much but the frustration that the public are expressing such serious issues about individuals and associating them with us is certainly a problem.

We were subsequently contacted by another member of the public requesting who regulates the Caledonian Humanist Association for weddings and funerals - we pointed them in the direction of your office.

On a related aside, I notice [REDACTED] is now running a paid Facebook advert for [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. This alongside the individual paid adverts Celebrants from Caledonian Humanist Association (and occasionally other groups) take out in the Scottish Wedding Directory magazine and their online directory <https://www.scottishweddingdirectory.co.uk/directory-category/registry-offices-celebrants/> continues to cause concern.

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Burns R (Rod)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 May 2018 14:18
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Re: Caledonian Humanist Association
Attachments: IMG_1132.PNG

Thanks Rod.

Our Board meeting is the 3rd June (Sunday - I'm sure its punishment!).

The link I sent for the SWD online directory has 14 entries in total, 8 are for individual Celebrants, 6 of which are for Caledonian Humanist Association Celebrants. Caledonian Humanist Association have an organisational entry as do we, but we have profited any Celebrants taking out an individual advert as we consider it paid advertising.

In the Action Research we submitted we included copies of the adverts individual celebrants have taken out in Scottish Wedding Directory.

Attached is [REDACTED]'s sponsored post - showing that it is from [REDACTED] individual Celebrant page.

It may be that none of this is considered to be aggressive and if it's permitted to pay for advertising to promote yourself as an individual Celebrant we will accept that and just make sure we consider that when setting out guidelines.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

On Thu, May 24, 2018 at 1:37 PM, <Rod.Burns@nrscotland.gov.uk> wrote:

Thanks [REDACTED] - no, I'd agree with your final statement, and any evidence of aggressive personal marketing would be very welcome - I can add this to the suite of enforcement material. Incidentally, when is your board meeting again? Is it June 6? I'll be on leave next week but back before then, if there's a good time to call and catch up - ?

Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 May 2018 12:18
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Caledonian Humanist Association

Burns R (Rod)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 May 2018 18:32
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Re: Caledonian Humanist Association
Attachments: Individual Marketing.zip

Great thanks, if Wed morning about 10:30 suits I'll give you a call.

Attached is some of the individual pushing we're seeing on one of the forums - not CHA in this lot (we only went back to April today as Blushing Brides is one of the most depressing places!)

Enjoy your break
[REDACTED]

On Thu, May 24, 2018 at 2:33 PM, <Rod.Burns@nrscotland.gov.uk> wrote:

No problem – I'm at home with dog-sitting/borrowed furry prince anyway! Any day's fine for me, but getting performance reports in the system at the minutel

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 May 2018 14:29
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Re: Caledonian Humanist Association

Thanks Rod - I could manage 5 mins today if that saves breaking into your holiday?

Next week I can do pretty much anytime Mon - Wed so happy to work round what suits you best.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

On Thu, May 24, 2018 at 2:23 PM, <Rod.Burns@nrscotland.gov.uk> wrote:

Ta – I'll still be on leave through the next Tuesday. Do you want to schedule a catch up call sometime in that prior week - ? my mobile's [REDACTED] if there's a time that suits; only bit I can't do is the Thursday, 31 I think, when we're going to an art/design thing at the school – Rod

Burns R (Rod)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 June 2018 12:25
To: Burns R (Rod)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Caledonian Humanist Association
Attachments: Screen Shot 2018-06-12 at 11.45.31.png

Hi Rod

At a meeting of our Area Officers yesterday I was advised that the Caledonian Humanist Association now have 3 yearly authorisation to solemnise marriage. I assumed this was inaccurate given when I asked this specific question when we met in May.

However, having looked online this morning I see the attached Facebook post from [REDACTED] clearly stating that Caledonian Humanist Association Celebrants now have three yearly authorisation and specifically 'The Registrar has recognised the good work carried out by the Caledonian Humanist Association and we've been upgraded to 3 year approval'

We have raised serious concerns regarding this group which so far have not been investigated. Our concerns are beyond what seems to be considered 're-education'. I would be surprised that any organisation would have their authorisation status changed when clear evidence has been provided to support the position that the group are not a Belief Body as per the terms of the Act.

Please can you confirm if Celebrants from the Caledonian Humanist Association now have the status of three yearly authorisation. If this is indeed accurate then our Board of Trustees will need to explore the available legal options to challenge the grounds for this decision up to and including a Judicial Review.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Director of Services
Humanist Society Scotland

Please note my core days of work are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

M: [REDACTED] E: [REDACTED]

Humanist Society Scotland

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Burns R (Rod)

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 13 June 2018 12:35
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association

Hi [REDACTED] -- this happened a while back, as per usual procedures. CHA were first authorised in March 2015 on a temporary basis. After a couple of years, with no significant problems, they were considered for movement onto the 3-year cycle in February 2017; this then happened automatically at the next available point in the cycle, January of this year. As you know on the current system (which will likely be completely overhauled by the QRs) this longer period of authorisation is far more efficient for NRS to administer, as HSS's movement to it sometime back prior to your being prescribed proved. The issues raised re CHA are in our middle set of enforcement letters. (Incidentally I just had a number of technical questions back on the first set which I'm answering today.) Happy to talk through -- Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 June 2018 12:25
To: Burns R (Rod)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Caledonian Humanist Association

Hi Rod

At a meeting of our Area Officers yesterday I was advised that the Caledonian Humanist Association now have 3 yearly authorisation to solemnise marriage. I assumed this was inaccurate given when I asked this specific question when we met in May.

However, having looked online this morning I see the attached Facebook post from [REDACTED] clearly stating that Caledonian Humanist Association Celebrants now have three yearly authorisation and specifically 'The Registrar has recognised the good work carried out by the Caledonian Humanist Association and we've been upgraded to 3 year approval'

We have raised serious concerns regarding this group which so far have not been investigated. Our concerns are beyond what seems to be considered 're-education'. I would be surprised that any organisation would have their authorisation status changed when clear evidence has been provided to support the position that the group are not a Bellef Body as per the terms of the Act.

Please can you confirm if Celebrants from the Caledonian Humanist Association now have the status of three yearly authorisation. If this is indeed accurate then our Board of Trustees will need to explore the available legal options to challenge the grounds for this decision up to and including a Judicial Review.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Director of Services
Humanist Society Scotland

Please note my core days of work are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Burns R (Rod)

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 13 June 2018 16:49
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association

Thanks [REDACTED] – unfortunate timing, I know. The mills in here grind quite slowly, but we're getting there. Happy for you to share the timing details with the board, as that would be what went into the answer to a direct letter. What happened with the Fuze cases?

Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 June 2018 14:35
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Re: Caledonian Humanist Association

Thanks Rod, it's just so disappointing when we have raised concerns about this group with evidence we think is significant. That the group have stated they do not meet and the membership is basically fraudulent seems significant and contrary to the definition of a belief body as per the Act.

I think we're at a bit of a loss as it seems so obvious to us. We are confident that these organisations are not genuine belief bodies, they do nothing other than train Celebrants and then host a website for them all to promote themselves.

It's good that there is some progress with the letters for the first round but I expect, given our concerns our Board of Trustees will opt to write formally around the CHA decision and will likely consider seeking a Judicial Review to challenge it.

On an aside we have had three calls today from couples who have been let down by Fuze; we'll make sure they have a Humanist Celebrant where we can but emotions are running quite high so they may contact your office directly.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

On Wed, Jun 13, 2018 at 12:34 PM, <Rod.Burns@nrscotland.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED] – this happened a while back, as per usual procedures. CHA were first authorised in March 2015 on a temporary basis. After a couple of years, with no significant problems, they were considered for movement onto the 3-year cycle in February 2017; this then happened automatically at the next available point in the cycle, January of this year. As you know on the current system (which will likely be completely overhauled by the QRs) this longer period of authorisation is far more efficient for NRS to administer, as HSS's movement to it sometime back prior to your being prescribed proved. The issues raised re CHA are in our middle set of enforcement letters. (Incidentally I just had a number of technical questions back on the first set which I'm answering today.) Happy to talk through – Rod

Burns R (Rod)

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 14 June 2018 12:01
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association

Thanks [REDACTED] – ditto; the issues have consumed huge amounts of time and resources in here, too (useful only in so far as it evidences the need for a larger marriage section to properly steward the sector). Are people really just fessing up to wanting to make money? This does point up the necessity of organisations living their belief statements – and providing evidence for that. Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 June 2018 17:13
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Re: Caledonian Humanist Association

Thanks Rod - we've tried to be really patient and possibly should have been clearer when we sent all the info in that we were questioning the legitimacy of these groups and believed they had been authorised unlawfully as they are not belief bodies (ethically or morally!) but simply in terms of the Act. .

It consumes an inordinate amount of our charity's time and resources and I think the CHA info has just been a reality check that as we try to navigate this, these organisations that we have real concerns about are growing and being further cemented into the landscape. We see them on forums and individually marketing and as opposed to lessening we just see more and more of it. We still see no evidence of transparency or any activity in terms of Humanism.

Our frustration is that it seems so obvious to us and that the Act seems to have sufficient provision without the QRs for not authorising on the basis that these groups are not belief bodies.

I asked our Area Officers why folk would want to be Celebrants with another group as opposed to us when we are a legitimate belief body and broad charity. The answer was 'because they make good money with the other groups; they're not about serving a community'. It just feels so wrong. Even if there was a blanket restriction on things like posting unsolicited adverts on forums, going to wedding exhibitions, and individual Celebrants taking out adverts and listings it might help.

In terms of Fuze, it's not clear what has happened. The office took three calls from couples saying they've been let down by their Celebrant from Fuze and can we help them. The couples were quite stressed out as the wedding dates are Aug / Sep. We didn't go into details with them today but will follow up once we know they have a Celebrant in place and the panic is over!

I do appreciate the resource restrictions; the CHA has just been the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back!

Thanks
[REDACTED]

On Wed, Jun 13, 2018 at 4:49 PM, <Rod.Burns@nrscotland.gov.uk> wrote:

Burns R (Rod)

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 14 June 2018 13:00
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association

Thanks [REDACTED] – agreed. If it isn't too much of a cheek (and please feel free to tell me to get lost), were the splitting-off groups from HSS going on ideological/'theological' grounds, or was it something else?

Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 June 2018 12:45
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Re: Caledonian Humanist Association

Hi Rod,

Yes, unfortunately, that the narrative and HSS is not somewhere someone 'can maximise income'. It does a good job for us in a way as these aren't the folk we would ever want but it creates the commercial landscape we've now got. I've even heard of one of these groups talking about the Return on Investment and profit margins in relation to weddings, but we have no hard evidence. When CHA set up they bombarded HSS Celebrants trying to get them to go with them and their big sell was with CHA they could do whatever they wanted, wouldn't answer to anyone and importantly wouldn't need to contribute any part of their fee so would make more money. Essentially, they are just a group that can get folk authorised and advertise them on a website.

The Celebrants that have left HSS and set up have all set up ceremony businesses; not one of them has set up a Humanist organisation that is about Humanism.

We have so much information that we've been careful not to share as we've not wanted to be aggressive in our approach to this. We've also tried to have evidence for everything as we thought would be enough to stop this explosion of commercial operators. We're being forced to compete with commercial providers to minimise those seeking a Humanist ceremony being exploited and that's difficult for a charity to do. We direct our resources to policy and campaign work and our projects like streetcare and chaplaincy; because these other groups are commercial they invest their resources in marketing their business.

I know you're pressed for resources and removing authorisation isn't as simple as we think it should be.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

On Thu, Jun 14, 2018 at 12:01 PM, <Rod.Burns@nrscotland.gov.uk> wrote:

Thanks [REDACTED] – ditto; the issues have consumed huge amounts of time and resources in here, too (useful only in so far as it evidences the need for a larger marriage section to properly steward the sector). Are people really just fessing up to wanting to make money? This does point up the necessity of organisations living their belief statements – and providing evidence for that. Rod

Burns R (Rod)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 December 2018 10:58
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Caledonian Humanist Association - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Rod,

My colleague [REDACTED] has made the decision to resign from the CHA due to work commitments.

[REDACTED] has informed us that [REDACTED] last ceremony will be on the 16th December 2018 and that there are no future ceremonies that need to be covered.

As such could you please remove [REDACTED] from our list of Authorised Celebrants on the 17th December 2018.

If you require any further information then do please let me know.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Humanist Celebrant
Authorised to conduct legal weddings in Scotland
Secretary
Caledonian Humanist Association

Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Follow me on Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/\[REDACTED\]](https://www.facebook.com/[REDACTED])

Caledonian Humanist Association is a non-profit making organisation

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To serve the interests of those who choose to use my services and to fulfil my role as a Humanist Celebrant, I need to collect, store, use, share and dispose of personal data. In doing so, I abide by the Data Protection principles set out in General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018. The privacy notice on the CHA's website explains how I do this.

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Burns R (Rod)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 January 2019 15:53
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Resignation of Caledonian Humanist Association Celebrant [REDACTED]

Happy New Year Rod!

I hope you had an enjoyable festive season.

CHA Celebrant [REDACTED] has decided to resign rather than await the outcome of a disciplinary process.

Could you please remove [REDACTED] from the list of authorised Celebrants?

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Humanist Celebrant
Authorised to conduct legal weddings in Scotland
Secretary
Caledonian Humanist Association
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Follow me on Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/\[REDACTED\]](https://www.facebook.com/[REDACTED])
Caledonian Humanist Association is a non-profit making organisation

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Stewart R (Russell)

From: Stewart R (Russell) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 14 December 2018 08:35
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Query regarding M10 forms submitted for a Caledonian Humanist Association Celebrant

Good Morning

Thank you for your email.

As of yesterday to the 13 March 2019 there has been no marriage notices lodged with the celebrant as [REDACTED] from the Caledonian Humanist Association.

I hope this helps.

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: Anna Russell

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: Rodgers L (Lynne) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 14 December 2018 16:33
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association - Resignation of Authorised Celebrant [redacted]

Russell
Can you please remove
[redacted] name
from section 11,
Clarke's

REMOVED
RJ 17/12/18

Lol
14/12/18

Thanks Rod.

I will arrange for [redacted]'s name to be removed from our list wef from 17 December.

Lynne

From: Burns R (Rod) <Rod.Burns@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 December 2018 12:34
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox <marriage@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Caledonian Humanist Association - Resignation of Authorised Celebrant [redacted]

How do - CHA celebrant to be removed from the list. (Sorry for delay - digging out e-mail from being sick for a couple of days!) Rod

From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 December 2018 10:58
To: Burns R (Rod) <Rod.Burns@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Subject: Caledonian Humanist Association - Resignation of Authorised Celebrant [redacted]

Dear Rod,

My colleague [redacted] has made the decision to resign from the CHA due to work commitments.

[redacted] has informed us that [redacted]'s last ceremony will be on the 16th December 2018 and that there are no future ceremonies that need to be covered.

As such could you please remove [redacted] from our list of Authorised Celebrants on the 17th December 2018.

If you require any further information then do please let me know.

Best wishes,

[redacted]
[redacted]
Humanist Celebrant
Authorised to conduct legal weddings in Scotland
Secretary
Caledonian Humanist Association
Mobile: [redacted]

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 January 2019 12:47
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Subject: RE: Statistics for Caledonian Humanist Association

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 7 January to the NRS Marriage Mailbox about statistics for Caledonian Humanist Association in 2018. Your email was passed to me as I work on marriage statistics.

Can you confirm that you are only looking for a breakdown of marriages by celebrant for the whole year? For example you don't want any further breakdown such as by month or council area.

Can you also confirm that this is a one off request or is it likely you would like to receive similar details on an annual or quarterly basis?

Kind regards.

[REDACTED]

Vital Events Business Manager

National Records of Scotland

Room 1/1/5, Ladywell House

Ladywell Road

Edinburgh

EH12 7TF

T: 0131 314 4227

[REDACTED]

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From: NRS : Vital Events Mailbox <vitalevents@nrscotland.gov.uk>

Sent: 07 January 2019 16:38

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Statistics for Caledonian Humanist Association



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: 20 March 2019 13:04
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: RE: Many apologies - audit letter gone astray
Attachments: CHA Wedding Ceremony Structure and Legal Declarations.docx; CHA - Minutes 9th March 2018.docx; CHA - Minutes 11th May 2018.docx; Minutes Friday 6th July 2018.docx; CHA - Minutes 2nd November 2018.docx

Hi Rod,

I've received postal correspondence from NRS a number of times without any issues, so it's very curious that the original letter was returned that way. I've been here all the time!

Just by way of double checking, my postal address is:

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

In answer to the questions asked re the audit, I am pleased to reply with the following:

Details of current office bearers

Andy McSorley Secretary
Julie Reid Treasurer
John Aird President

Current membership numbers as at the end of 2018

As of 31st December 2018 there were 832 members on our database.

Details of meetings held since the start of 2018

9th March
11th May
6th July
2nd November

There was a scheduled meeting on the 7th September that was cancelled due to other commitments.

All meetings took place at the Holiday Inn Express, Strathclyde Park, with a start time of 10:00 am

Celebrants now have the option of attending in person or using SKYPE to videoconference.

Notice is given by email at the start of the year; all CHA Celebrants have a "cha.scot" email address that is used for this and other official purposes. We also have a private CHA Celebrants group on Facebook where all the dates of meetings are listed.

I have attached the minutes for all meetings that took place in 2018.

In addition, we have a mailing list of all Celebrants that we use to keep up to date with any developments or to share information. As such, Celebrants effectively have instant access to their colleagues through both this channel as well as Facebook, SKYPE and other modern methods of communications.

A copy of the CHA current form of marriage ceremony

Please see attached document "CHA Wedding Ceremony Structure and Legal Declarations" with this information.

I hope that this is sufficient for your audit, but I am of course happy to expand upon the information given, or supply further information as necessary.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Humanist Celebrant
Authorised to conduct legal weddings in Scotland
Secretary
Caledonian Humanist Association
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Follow me on Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/\[REDACTED\]](https://www.facebook.com/[REDACTED])
Caledonian Humanist Association is a non-profit making organisation

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To serve the interests of those who choose to use my services and to fulfil my role as a Humanist Celebrant, I need to collect, store, use, share and dispose of personal data. In doing so, I abide by the Data Protection principles set out in General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018. The privacy notice on the CHA's website explains how I do this.

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From: Rod.Burns@nrscotland.gov.uk <Rod.Burns@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 March 2019 15:34
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Many apologies - audit letter gone astray

Hi [REDACTED] -- you may be aware we've been doing a standardised audit exercise recently for all belief bodies, and I'd sent out a letter to you back in mid-February (along with 14 others) by special delivery. Bizarrely, this was returned weeks later, last Friday, as undelivered; no idea why. I'm attaching the text of what I sent out signed in hard copy. Obviously the dates aren't correct any longer, given this long unanticipated delay. Would it be a problem to complete the exercise, say, by the end of this month?

Rod

Ceremony Structure – entirely without religious content as in keeping with humanist principles

Welcome

Explanation of type of ceremony and humanist principles

Reflections on marriage

Reading

Bride and Groom's Story – In Their Own Words

Further reflections on marriage

Reading

Marriage Vows

Legal Declarations

Exchange of Rings

Signing of the Marriage Schedule

Closing Words and thanks

Well Wishing Reading

Grand Exit Happy Couple

LEGALITIES

Couple's Mandatory Declarations

In all our legal ceremonies the couple should declare to one another:

"I NAME accept you, NAME, in marriage"

The couple may read this declaration to one another or repeat after the celebrant.

Couple's Declaration Variations

"I, NAME, solemnly and sincerely accept you, Name , in marriage

"I NAME accept you, NAME, to be my lawfully wedded wife/husband"

"I NAME accept you, NAME, in marriage as my equal partner

Celebrant's Mandatory Declaration

"NAME AND NAME, following the declarations you have made in my presence and in the presence of both your witnesses and guests, ...

"I declare you legally married" OR

"I have much pleasure in declaring you married "

"I have much pleasure in declaring that you are now husband and wife"

Burns R (Rod)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 March 2018 13:49
To: Burns R (Rod)
Cc: [REDACTED] McCafferty J (John)
Subject: FW: Temporary Authorisation Letter - [REDACTED] and Scottish Wedding Show
Attachments: NRS - Temporary Authorisation Letter - [REDACTED] 03.pdf

Hi Rod,

Whilst I was working at the Scottish Wedding Show on 25th February I noticed a stand advertising Middleton Life Celebrations.

None of the advert mentioned that [REDACTED] was part of TLC. When questioned by a Bride [REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had to join a group by way of getting authorised.

I think this definitely a wedding business. Just wanted to bring it to your attention.

Please see [REDACTED] website <http://www.mlc-celebrant.uk/>

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
City Registrar
Glasgow City Council
Registration Service
City Chambers
Glasgow
G2 1DU

Tel: 0141 287 7653

Mob: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 February 2018 11:09
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Temporary Authorisation Letter - [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Is this the person from the Stall on Sunday "Middleton Life Celebrations"

[REDACTED]
From: Russell.Stewart@nrscotland.gov.uk [mailto:Russell.Stewart@nrscotland.gov.uk] On Behalf Of marriage@nrscotland.gov.uk
Sent: 27 February 2018 10:50
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Temporary Authorisation Letter - [REDACTED]

Burns R (Rod)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 May 2018 11:09
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: RE: Celebrants/organisations

Hello Rod

[REDACTED] is a minister with Scottish Spiritualist Churches. [REDACTED] address is:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is our usual contact for Fuze.

[REDACTED] is a marriage officer with Independent Humanist Ceremonies. [REDACTED] is our IHC contact.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are both with TLC (I think you still have the TLC file) – [REDACTED] is the TLC contact and all correspondence goes to her address.

I can provide addresses if you require them.

Hope this is helpful.

Lynne

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 08 May 2018 10:45
To: Rodgers L (Lynne)
Subject: Celebrants/organisations

Hi Lynne – thanks for checking these. What I have so far is:

[REDACTED] - Ellini Weddings (not sure who [REDACTED]'s authorised by)

[REDACTED] (as contact, for dodgy recruitment advert) – Fuze

[REDACTED] – independent Humanist Celebrants ([REDACTED] as contact)

[REDACTED] – Love Boat Disco – TLC?

[REDACTED] – Devotion Weddings – TLC?

Rod

Burns R (Rod)

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 15 June 2018 14:24
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: REQUEST FROM TLC FAITH

Dear [REDACTED] – thanks for your message, and apologies for the delay replying. I am planning to write out to you in a couple of weeks on unrelated matters, and will address the issues below after that point.

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: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 May 2018 12:24
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: REQUEST FROM TLC FAITH

Dear Mr Burns

I wish to apply to recruit 3 more celebrants to conduct marriage ceremonies on behalf of TLC Faith to cover existing bookings and future bookings up to April 2019 . The reasons for this are as follows –

At the present time we have 6 celebrants –

[REDACTED]
Over the last 9 months [REDACTED] has had to cut back on the number of bookings [REDACTED] can take as [REDACTED] now spends a lot of time [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. Last August [REDACTED] has 12 ceremonies, and this year [REDACTED] has only managed to take 3. I feel really bad about this, but grateful [REDACTED] is so willing to be [REDACTED] carer.

[REDACTED] has been great and has taken over most of the bookings [REDACTED] had earmarked. This was at the expense of foregoing some of [REDACTED] own professional bookings as a DJ, host, Master of Ceremonies (our arrangement was that "[REDACTED] cant wear 2 hats on the same day") – and [REDACTED] has stuck to that. This means that [REDACTED] will be working every weekend during August. In future, it will not be such a problem as we have recently brought [REDACTED] on board and they will be able to share their bookings in the future and make things easier for them. Already they are full for next August. I cannot reallocate any of [REDACTED] bookings for this August as [REDACTED] has already met and built up a relationship with all the couples.

[REDACTED] can't take on any more bookings for August as [REDACTED] already has a full commitment – and has a number of Naming ceremonies booked in as well and is also available for funerals.

[REDACTED] does not have any bookings at all for this August, as [REDACTED] diary was already fully booked for DJ, Professional Master of Ceremonies etc bookings. [REDACTED] will honour [REDACTED] existing other personal bookings and commitments and then will be able to take on more TLC work next year. Already [REDACTED] has 7 confirmed bookings for next August.

[REDACTED] – Well to be honest [REDACTED] has been a bit of a disappointment. Please don't get me wrong as [REDACTED] is an excellent celebrant. However before we took [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] assured us that even with [REDACTED] busy schedule ([REDACTED]) [REDACTED] would make [REDACTED] available to conduct ceremonies as and when required. [REDACTED] did not take any spring bookings ([REDACTED]), and only has confirmed 3 summer bookings May, August and September ([REDACTED]).

[REDACTED] will be a great asset for the future, but will not be available at all in August. I knew this when [REDACTED] came on board, and didn't think it would be a problem as [REDACTED] would be able to take up existing bookings for this time. I also hoped that [REDACTED] would have been better by now which would allow [REDACTED] to take up [REDACTED] full compliment of bookings. Sadly I didn't have a crystal ball!!!

CONTINGENCY

Also where possible I like to reserve one celebrant for emergencies. Recently [REDACTED] was supposed to conduct a ceremony at 2.00 pm that day and I received a phone call from [REDACTED] around 10ish to say [REDACTED] was too sick to make it.

I organised the paperwork and [REDACTED] immediately was able to go and meet the couple, spend some time with them and go over [REDACTED]s script prior to conducting their ceremony. (Obviously [REDACTED] did not accept a fee for the change and the couple were delighted with their day). However, with [REDACTED] it is impossible to rely on [REDACTED] for this role on a

permanent basis – its is very very difficult to find to find someone else to support [REDACTED] needs at such short notice.

MARKETING

The Braehead wedding fayre was very successful for us. We are still in the process of following up provisional bookings and enquiries. (We meet with all couples on a one to one basis before accepting their booking. This ensures we have time to explain all about our TLC belief system). Already we have 9 confirmed bookings – and our celebrants are still following up more enquiries. (Even if the couples choose not to book with us, it still gives us an opportunity to pass on our Belief System)

We already have bookings for 2021 as couples have always booked so far in advance. However, at this recent wedding fayre it was surprising to see so many leaving it 'till the last minute', and another new trend appears to be for morning or evening ceremonies.

Shortfall for celebrants AUGUST, SEPTMEBER and OCOTBER 2018 bookings

3 August – We are short now short of 2 celebrants – [REDACTED] is not available as [REDACTED] has a prebooked personal commitment, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are not available at all in August, but as I previously explained, I knew about this in advance. [REDACTED] is working, and I have no contingencies available.

18 August – Again 2 celebrants short. [REDACTED] will not be available – ([REDACTED]), [REDACTED] is available, [REDACTED] actually has 2 on the same day – one at 11 am and one at 5pm, [REDACTED] is also available, and I still have one long standing booking to fill as well as a contingency.

25 August – [REDACTED] are available, [REDACTED] is working, and once again short of 2 celebrants and a contingency to cover all bookings.

September Bookings –

To date we have 36 actual bookings for September and 8 in the pipeline still to be followed up by celebrants.

October Bookings – The numbers are still coming in. Its quite unbelievable that there are so many couples still looking for half term bookings. We already have 29 confirmed bookings for this time.


BOOKINGS FOR 2019

The success of the Braehead and one local wedding fayre gives us confidence to forecast that we may well need more celebrants to cover future bookings. We will also be exhibiting at the SEC, Hampden, Ayrshire as well as some of the local fayres throughout the year. Many off our enquiries come directly as referrals from previous ceremonies we have provided.

We already have 204 bookings so far, but as I noted earlier, the trend appears to be changing and many couples are leaving it until later to book their celebrant. Forecasting the number of celebrants required is so difficult as I cannot rely on previous years' figures given our

celebrants personal circumstances. I therefore ask you to consider our need for 3 new celebrants to cover bookings up to April 2019. By that time I should be in a better position to forecast numbers more accurately.

Many thanks and best regards



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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 TLC Faith 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 TLC'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 TLC 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: 28 March 2019 15:18
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: AUDIT RETURN FROM TLC FAITH
Attachments: Wedding script for [REDACTED].docx; NRS AUDIT.docx

Dear Mr Burns

Thank you for allowing me an extension to complete the audit.

I am told you will be on holiday from tomorrow - I hope you have a wonderful time/rest. I have attached my audit return for your perusal, just in case you need it before you leave. I have also posted a hard copy today.

Best regards as usual

[REDACTED]
TLC Faith

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TLC FAITH

**The Registrar
New Edinburgh House
Edinburgh EH1 3YT**

Dear Mr Burns

Please accept my apologies for this late return to your audit request. [REDACTED]

1 DETAILS OF CURRENT OFFICE BEARERS

Annual elections of Elders took place 4 March 2019 as per TLC Faith constitution.

TLC Faith Presiding Pastor – Christine Lyons

Funeral Coordinator - Andrew Daisley was re-elected

Wedding Coordinator – Christine Lyons was re-elected

Membership and Training Coordinator – Zoe Lyons was re-elected

Creche/Youth Coordinator – Suzanne Angus was re-elected

Volunteer and Fundraising Coordinator – Bryan LaTrobe was re-elected

Venue Coordinator – Lawrence Berry was elected

Floating Coordinators – Katie White and Ollie Wilson were elected.

The only change from last year was the new Venue Coordinator – it was decided there was no need for this position 2017/18 as we were allowed to use a room in the local village inn in Dunure. Sadly it closed unexpectedly in January this year and we are in the process of seeking alternative premises.

2 CURRENT MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AT THE END OF 2018.

This is really difficult to assess, as in accordance with TLC Faith constitution we do not require anyone wishing to be a part of TLC Faith to complete a membership application or form and are not obligated to attend meetings. However at our December/Christmas TLC gathering we had 162 in attendance with couples coming from as far away as Perthshire and the borders. This was an excellent turnout considering the busy time of year when everyone has other commitments and busy schedules.

3 DETAILS OF MEETINGS HELD SINCE START OF 2018

Meetings/services were held in accordance with TLC Faith constitution – informal, where people were encouraged to speak about their charitable contributions (not necessarily money in a collection box, but even something as simple as giving time to help a neighbour fix their computer, and how rewarding it was to feel good about helping others – and in turn they will go on to help others – ‘the butterfly effect’. They were also encouraged to inform us if they knew of anyone requiring help – befriending, counselling, or even gardening or transport to give only a few examples.

Regular members felt that weekly meetings were awkward as weekends were the time a lot of the fundraising and voluntary work was carried out. Therefore in October 2016 it was decided to change the meetings to the first and third Sundays of each month (excluding December where there would only be one meeting on the first Sunday of the month).

We have many members who just like to keep in touch and don't feel the need to come to regular meetings. They are more than happy to promote and uphold TLC core values and help in their communities in their own special way.

4 HOW MEMBERS WERE INFORMED

As you are aware TLC Faith does not have a website, nor do we want one! This strategy has worked well for us since 2010.

In accordance with our constitution we believe that word of mouth and personal communication is the best way to promote TLC Faith and introduce people to our core values. There are many excellent platforms for us to do this – from the monthly car boot fundraisers where we can reach many people who are just passing by, and inviting them to come along to our meetings, to marriage

ceremonies where we can spend time with couples giving them 'food for thought', and inviting them to come along to one of our meetings without pressuring them. Likewise we promote TLC values to all the guests. Naming ceremonies are also an excellent way to promote TLC Values – especially regarding children.

Wedding fairs are an excellent opportunity to spend time with couples to explain our values and invite them to come along to one of our regular meetings. It doesn't matter if they choose or don't choose us to perform their marriage ceremony.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me. My number [REDACTED]

R103/1/483

Copied - On Terry Auld pl

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: Rodgers L (Lynne) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 08 February 2019 09:56
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION FOR [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail and attachments.

After careful consideration it has been agreed that [REDACTED] can be granted temporary authorisation to conduct marriage ceremonies on behalf of TLC Faith.

We will hold on to the letters of support until we receive [REDACTED] first request for temporary authorisation.

Kind regards

Lynne

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 January 2019 14:36
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox <marriage@nrscotland.gov.uk>
Subject: APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION FOR [REDACTED]

Good afternoon

Further to my telephone call with Mr Burns earlier today I now attach my application to grant [REDACTED] temporary authorisation to become a Marriage Officer for TLC Faith.

Mr Burns suggested that I write an informal letter citing that we wished to expand TLC Faith to the Aberdeen area where [REDACTED] now lives.

Thank you

[REDACTED]
TLC Faith

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Burns R (Rod)

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 20 December 2018 14:52
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Response to your e-mail

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of November 28 raising additional questions about TLC Faith. Taking them in the order in which they were raised:

1. While [REDACTED] is a pastor of TLC Faith, [REDACTED] is not currently authorised to solemnise weddings in Scotland and is serving that organisation in an administrative capacity. NRS does not take a view on the titles of belief body staff where they are not authorised to solemnise marriage.
2. I would be happy to investigate any instance of an authorised celebrant failing to uphold the statement of belief on the basis of which they were authorised. Please provide evidence of this having occurred. The issue of children (it is unclear to what, exactly, you are referring to here) plays no part in any decision to authorise a celebrant to solemnise marriage.
3. NRS will conduct a comprehensive compliance exercise for all belief bodies, including TLC Faith, early in 2019.
4. The date of establishment of any belief body is not relevant to whether or not their celebrants are subsequently authorised.
5. [REDACTED] has served TLC Faith in an administrative capacity since early 2016.
6. Neither charitable status, nor description of a belief body as a 'church', are relevant to an assessment of whether its celebrants are authorised; rather, all belief bodies must satisfy NRS on the basis of materials submitted in an application package that they pass the statutory test as a belief body.
7. In regard to numbers of weddings, could you please specify a timeframe for this information (we can supply figures in a number of ways); and in regard to complaints about TLC Faith, could you set out the grounds for your complaint, along with any supporting evidence, and send it to me at the address below.

Yours

Rod Burns

Deputy Registrar General
National Records of Scotland

Preserving the past; recording the present; informing the future

New Register House

Stewart R (Russell)

From: Stewart R (Russell) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 01 May 2018 14:52
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: FROM TLC FAITH

Good Afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

As agreed last year I can confirm that [REDACTED] will be accepted as your 4th new marriage officer and I can confirm that the signed letters of support have arrived.

As you wish permission to train 2 new marriage offices on behalf of TLC Faith, a proper business case needs to be submitted to Mr Burns. This needs to be on the basis of evidence of increased membership and demand rather than projections.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Russell Stewart
Casework Administrator

Rm 38, Marriage Section
National Records of Scotland
New Register House
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 April 2018 09:34
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Subject: FROM TLC FAITH

Good Morning

Last year we were given permission to recruit 4 new Marriage Officers. So far we have recruited three and I would like permission to authorise [REDACTED] as the fourth. I have already the signed letters of the required paperwork.

We have already exceeded the number of bookings we anticipated for this year. We are also going to be exhibiting at the upcoming Braehead Wedding Fayre and others in Glasgow and the local areas throughout the spring, summer and autumn. Given this, we predict that there will

be a need to recruit 2 more Marriage Officers to cover this increased demand for 2018/19. I therefore request permission to recruit for

With best regards


Pastor TLC Faith .

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