

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: Smith WE (Wilma)
Sent: 11 February 2015 13:39
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Subject: FW: Caledonian Humanist Association (CHA)

Lynne

To see and for filing please.

Wilma

From: McCafferty J (John)
Sent: 11 February 2015 11:50
To: Smith WE (Wilma)
Subject: FW: Caledonian Humanist Association (CHA)

Wilma

To note and file.

John

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 11 February 2015 11:45
To: McCafferty J (John)
Subject: FW: Caledonian Humanist Association (CHA)

FYI – just gone out to [REDACTED] (excised the religious body language and left it simply as body). Rod

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 11 February 2015 11:44
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association (CHA)

Hi [REDACTED] – thanks again for the update info re OSCR, etc. We'll need the following information:

- A copy of your body's constitution, which should contain the aims and beliefs of the group, together with details on the appointment of office bearers
- Details of membership, both locally and throughout the United Kingdom (if applicable), as well as how often the local body meets
- A copy of the wording of the proposed marriage ceremony
- The full name and designation celebrants would use when signing the Marriage Schedule
- Letters from two office bearers of your body supporting the celebrant's application and testifying to their status within the group

- The full names of the couple getting married and the date and venue of the wedding.

Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 February 2015 11:11
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Caledonian Humanist Association (CHA)

Dear Rod,

As you may remember, I met with yourself and John McCafferty on the 30th December last year.

We discussed my proposals for setting up a new humanist body and obtaining authorisation for CHA celebrants to conduct legal marriages. As any CHA Celebrant will already have a large number of ceremonies booked for the coming year and beyond, you offered that instead of applying for authorisation on a case by case basis, CHA Celebrants could send on a list of ceremonies that they have for a given period and that authorisation would be granted for that period.

At that stage, I was also awaiting feedback from OSCR on the application for charitable status. On the 19th January OSCR responded asking for more detailed information. I had hoped that OSCR approval would have been granted by now but this information will take some time to put together and then of course there will be further time for OSCR to respond. It looks as if it will take quite some time before charitable status is obtained.

One of the main reasons for setting up the CHA was that, over the last few years a number of Celebrants have grown disillusioned by the sustained mismanagement of the HSS.

Recently an anonymous letter was sent out to the entire Humanist Society Scotland (HSS) Celebrant body. Enclosed was a letter of complaint that had apparently been sent to Tim Ellis. Although the language is rather robust in places, overall the contents appear to be accurate and sadly are a realistic reflection of many of our own concerns.

While it is still my intention to seek charitable status from previous advice given by John, I know that a Belief body does not need to be a charity in order to carry out its objectives of promoting humanist beliefs. I'd now like to go ahead with having the CHA formally recognised by your office as a body whose Celebrants are authorised to conduct legal marriages.

Our current authorisation obtained through the HSS to conduct legal marriages expires on the 31st March. Another major factor is that for many of us, February would be a good time to move from the HSS as there are far fewer weddings to co-ordinate around a changeover.

What do you now require from me by way of documentation in order for this new body to be recognised?

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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

McCafferty J (John)

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 13 March 2015 15:29
To: McCafferty J (John)
Subject: FW: CHA

*Miss Smith Mrs Rodgers
To note and file. WS
13/3/15
J McCafferty
13/3/15*

Just gone – Rod

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 13 March 2015 15:28
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: CHA

Dear [REDACTED]

Thanks for your message of February 19, and associated paperwork, which meets our requirements. There are a couple of small issues we'll need to bottom out before proceeding:

- Can you confirm that before we authorise, and you conduct, any of the booked ceremonies on behalf of Caledonian Humanist Association, you have formally resigned from HSS?
- You've indicated 11 potential marriage celebrants from a pool of 22 interested members of CHA. As you will be a new organisation authorised by NRS, we'll need to see a business case showing the need for this number of celebrants (i.e. to match numbers of celebrants authorised to demonstrable numbers/business needs).
- Lastly, given the way we (and the registration service locally) work, we will be able to authorise the first six bookings, and you'll need to apply for the upcoming ceremonies after that date in blocks no earlier than 3 months prior to the date of the ceremony.

I hope these additional questions are clear, and would be happy to talk through on the details below.

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

McCafferty J (John)

Mr Rodger R
W Smith
25/3/15
Mr Smith
To note and file.

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 19 March 2015 16:08
To: McCafferty J (John)
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association request for new Wedding Celebrant authorisation: [REDACTED]

McCafferty
19/3/15

Ta – I'll go back to [REDACTED] with this and the confirmation questions. Rod

From: McCafferty J (John)
Sent: 19 March 2015 16:01
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association request for new Wedding Celebrant authorisation: [REDACTED]

Rod

We need confirmation of [REDACTED] resignation before we issue a letter of authorisation for the weddings on [REDACTED] list in the next three months. [REDACTED] should then submit future requests for the following dates to the Marriage Section at marriage@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk. As already outlined request should not be any earlier than three months before any wedding. If [REDACTED] re-sends [REDACTED] list including the April 11 wedding we can include that in the first authorisation letter.

John

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 19 March 2015 15:45
To: McCafferty J (John)
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association request for new Wedding Celebrant authorisation: [REDACTED]

I'll go back and seek confirmations. [REDACTED] also confirmed in [REDACTED] other e-mail that [REDACTED] is due to resign from HSS very shortly, and asked about the mechanics of the authorisation process. In future should I direct [REDACTED] to Lynne rather than me (though happy to be the intermediary, as [REDACTED] uses e-mail not paper!) and the authorisations I know go out as paper letters anyway. [REDACTED] mentions too that [REDACTED] just confirmed a booking for April 11, which I assume isn't in the list [REDACTED] sent. What's needed for that one?

Rod

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: Rodgers L (Lynne) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 13 April 2015 16:57
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Celebrant Authorisation, [REDACTED] Caledonian Humanist Association

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your further e-mail.

As the Caledonian Humanist Association is a new organisation, you and your celebrants will be required to apply for temporary authorisations for the foreseeable future. As stated in your discussions with Rod Burns you will be required to put forward a robust case for any additional celebrants to be authorised.

If you still want to discuss this I can be contacted on 0131 314 4447.

Kind regards

Lynne Rodgers
Casework Supervisor

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 April 2015 15:10
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Subject: RE: Celebrant Authorisation, [REDACTED] Caledonian Humanist Association

Thank you Russell that is impressively fast work!

I'd like to call you to discuss ceremonies admin going forward.

Would you be free anytime on Monday or Tuesday for this?

All the best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Humanist Celebrant
Authorised to conduct legal weddings in Scotland
Caledonian Humanist Association
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Read my blog: [REDACTED]
Follow me on Facebook: [REDACTED]
Caledonian Humanist Association is a non-profit making organisation

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Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: Rodgers L (Lynne) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 14 April 2015 12:27
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Celebrant Authorisation, [REDACTED], Caledonian Humanist Association

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your reply.

As you have seven ceremonies in July and the last is on the 31 July I would suggest that you send in your request on or after 31 April as this will be within the three month period for all your weddings in July.

We would reply within 10 working days of receiving your request although it usually does not take as long as this.

I hope this is helpful.

Kind regards

Lynne

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 April 2015 17:18
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Subject: Re: Celebrant Authorisation, [REDACTED], Caledonian Humanist Association

Dear Lynne,

Thanks for your reply.

What I wanted to talk about was the timing of when the current Celebrants send their future ceremony info.

For example, today is the 13th April therefore three months in advance now reaches to 13th July. Myself and the other Celebrants are currently authorised until our latest ceremonies in June.

In July I have seven ceremonies the last being on the 31st.

When do I send that next list is basically what I'm wondering - if you see what I mean?

This is all new to us as when we were members of the HSS, we had yearly authorisation.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

On 13 Apr 2015, at 16:57, Marriage@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your further e-mail.

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: Rodgers L (Lynne) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 12 May 2015 10:56
To: [REDACTED] Humanist Celebrant'
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] Caledonian Humanist Association

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your further e-mail.

Yes – we need to be informed of cancellations so that we can update our records accordingly.

Yours sincerely

Lynne Rodgers

From: [REDACTED] Humanist Celebrant [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 May 2015 08:24
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Subject: Re: [REDACTED] Caledonian Humanist Association

Dear Mr Stewart

Thanks you for your email. Do I have to inform you of cancellations?

[REDACTED]

On 12 May 2015, at 08:22, Marriage@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

I have attached a copy of your amended letter.

Yours sincerely

Russell Stewart
Casework Administrator
National Records of Scotland
New Register House
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT
Tel: 0131 314 4475
Fax: 0131 314 4532

Burns R (Rod)

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 29 October 2015 10:49
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association, new celebrant authorisation request

Thanks [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] will need to have resigned from HSS prior to joining CHA and seeking authorisation, but [REDACTED] done this happy for you to pursue with Marriage section.

Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 October 2015 10:44
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Caledonian Humanist Association, new celebrant authorisation request

Dear Rod,

I hope this finds you well.

I am pleased to say I am writing to request your permission to add a new celebrant to the CHA list of celebrants authorised to conduct legal marriages and civil partnerships.

The celebrants name is [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is currently a celebrant with the Humanist Society Scotland.

In support of the business case for [REDACTED] addition, I have attached a list of [REDACTED] upcoming ceremonies which extends into 2017. [REDACTED] would also establish a presence in Edinburgh that we currently lack and provide an excellent base from which to expand further.

If this meets with your approval, then as per previous applications, I can deal directly with your Marriage Registration Office in terms of the required paperwork.

All the very best,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Humanist Celebrant
Authorised to conduct legal weddings in Scotland
Secretary
Caledonian Humanist Association
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Follow me on Facebook: [REDACTED]
Caledonian Humanist Association is a non-profit making organisation

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Burns R (Rod)

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 29 October 2015 11:11
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association, new celebrant authorisation request

Okay – thanks [REDACTED]. Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 October 2015 11:08
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association, new celebrant authorisation request

Hi Rod,

Indeed it does!

Thanks again,

[REDACTED]

From: Rod.Burns@nrscotland.gov.uk [mailto:Rod.Burns@nrscotland.gov.uk]
Sent: 29 October 2015 11:05
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association, new celebrant authorisation request

Hi [REDACTED] – I'm assuming [REDACTED] being brought on board forms part of the plan for developing CHA as discussed earlier in the year (i.e. the business case)?

Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 October 2015 11:03
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association, new celebrant authorisation request

Thanks Rod,

[REDACTED] is an extremely busy Celebrant so I just wanted to make sure you were happy the case for [REDACTED] addition before we transfer [REDACTED] across.

All the best,

Copied to HSS file. R107/1/408

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: Rodgers L (Lynne) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 26 November 2015 16:20
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association, Authorisation of new Celebrant [REDACTED]

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for your further e-mail and explanation of the circumstances regarding [REDACTED] resignation from the HSS.

In view of the fact that [REDACTED] did not send [REDACTED] letter of resignation to the HSS until after the wedding on 3 April we can accept that [REDACTED] was still a celebrant with the HSS on the date the ceremony took place. The entry is therefore correct and no correction is required.

Thank you too for confirming [REDACTED] resignation date from the HSS. We can now go ahead and process your request for [REDACTED] to be granted temporary authorisation for [REDACTED] forthcoming weddings.

Kind regards

Lynne

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 November 2015 18:22
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association, Authorisation of new Celebrant [REDACTED]

Hi Lynne,

I was very concerned when I read your email and I immediately looked into my records for that period. I've also spoken to [REDACTED] and I see how this issue has arisen.

Although [REDACTED] letter is dated the 31st March, [REDACTED] position is [REDACTED] didn't post it until after [REDACTED] conducted [REDACTED] last ceremony on the 3rd April. [REDACTED] intention was that the ceremony on the 3rd April be [REDACTED] last ceremony for the HSS – the gap between the 31st March and the 3rd April being too small, when there was then a larger gap between the 3rd and the 12th April, to process [REDACTED] transfer. [REDACTED] then emailed [REDACTED] letter and list of ceremonies to me on the 6th April, which I duly forwarded the next day.

[REDACTED] therefore conducted the ceremony on the 3rd April on the basis that [REDACTED] was doing so as a Celebrant with the HSS.

I am satisfied with [REDACTED] explanation as [REDACTED] also emailed me on the 4th April, to tell me [REDACTED] letter to the HSS was "in the post". With that in mind, there may be no need for you to amend your records.

However, in the case that you still feel an amendment is necessary, I am happy to accept your offer that the ceremony instead be amended to show that it was conducted on behalf of the CHA. I would take this opportunity to thank you for your forbearance in this matter.

I've also spoken to [REDACTED], whose last ceremony with the HSS was on the 20th November and [REDACTED] confirms [REDACTED] posted [REDACTED] resignation letter to the HSS after that ceremony was conducted. [REDACTED] intention was therefore that the HSS be

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: Rodgers L (Lynne) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 21 January 2016 15:05
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Authorisation for Caledonian Humanist Association Celebrants

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail.

I think a lot of problems have been caused because registrars are confused now that there are numerous Humanist organisations. A fair number of Humanist celebrants who are with organisations which have been established for a number of years now have been given full (3 year) authorisation and their names are contained in our register of approved celebrants. This is the 'list' registrars are referring to.

As the Caledonian Humanist Association is a new organisation we are only prepared to grant its celebrants temporary authorisations for the time being. This is in keeping with any organisation new to us regardless of whether it is a religious or belief body.

In view of the difficulties your organisation has been experiencing I have arranged for a news item to be put out to all registrars notifying them about celebrants with the CHA and instructing them to contact NRS Marriage Section if they have any queries about a celebrant's authorisation.

Hopefully this will avoid any difficulty or misunderstandings in the future.

Kind regards

Lynne

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 January 2016 20:52
To: Rodgers L (Lynne)
Subject: Authorisation for Caledonian Humanist Association Celebrants

Dear Lynne,

I hope this finds you well.

There is an issue I would like to discuss with yourself in the first instance as it has occurred again today.

On numerous occasions now, when couples have been submitting their M10 forms, the local Registrar has been making statements to the effect that the CHA Celebrant is "not on their list" or "the Celebrant doesn't seem to have authorisation for this ceremony". On one particular occasion last year, I called your office and spoke to one of your colleagues as one couple had not been allowed to submit their M10 forms.

Often this is due to the couple submitting their M10 forms before we notify you of the ceremony and there is usually only a few days difference. If we were submitting our emails to you on the three month threshold, we'd be sending in ceremonies one at a time so we wait for a couple of weeks and group upcoming ceremonies in the next three month period together. If we were sending them one at a time then there would be literally hundreds of emails flying around.

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: Rodgers L (Lynne) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 22 January 2016 15:34
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Authorisation for Caledonian Humanist Association Celebrants

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your further e-mail.

We would probably looking at two years before the CHA would be considered for three yearly authorisations as this is the usual period for organisations new to us. Therefore we would be willing to consider your request in early 2017.

All religious or belief celebrants who are scheduled to conduct a marriage ceremony should have the out of hours or emergency contact details for the registrar for the area where the wedding is to take place. In the unfortunate event of something untoward happening all registrars have out of hours contact details for senior management within NRS and if a celebrant who has been previously authorised is able to step in at short notice to conduct the marriage, verbal authority to allow the celebrant to do so can be given by the senior officer in NRS. This would then be followed up with a letter of authorisation.

I hope this information is helpful.

Kind regards

Lynne

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 January 2016 15:59
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Subject: RE: Authorisation for Caledonian Humanist Association Celebrants

Dear Lynne,

Thanks for getting back to me so quickly and for your action in notifying all Registrars.

What is a realistic time-scale for the CHA to be considered for three-yearly authorisation?

The reason I ask is there is also another matter that has been brought to my attention. As I understand it, the authorisation letters we received entitle us to carry out the marriages listed on the letter and no others. Our concern is therefore emergency cover.

What do we do in the event that the Celebrant named on the letter is unable to conduct the ceremony due to accident or illness at very short notice?

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Humanist Celebrant

Burns R (Rod)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 April 2016 11:07
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Caledonian Humanist Association, new celebrant authorisation request [REDACTED]
Attachments: [REDACTED] May - August 2016 Weddings.xlsx

Dear Rod,

I hope this finds you well.

I am pleased to say I am writing to request your permission to add a new celebrant to the CHA list of celebrants authorised to conduct legal marriages and civil partnerships.

The celebrants name is [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is currently a celebrant with the Humanist Society Scotland.

In support of the case for [REDACTED] addition, I have attached a list of [REDACTED] upcoming ceremonies for the next three months. [REDACTED] would also establish a presence in the North East that we currently lack and provide an excellent base from which to expand further.

[REDACTED] was recently suspended by the HSS and I understand your office was notified of this. However, [REDACTED] has stated to me that [REDACTED] has fully disclosed to me the details of [REDACTED] suspension pending the outcome of ongoing disciplinary proceedings.

I have read over the materials and along with [REDACTED], CHA Treasurer, met with [REDACTED] in person.

I am satisfied that the issue that the HSS is investigating has nothing to do with either the quality of [REDACTED] ceremonies or [REDACTED] conduct as a Celebrant.

I am also satisfied that the action of the HSS in suspending [REDACTED] is a grossly disproportionate response to the matter.

[REDACTED] also meets our standards in terms of PVG Scheme Membership and is of good character.

We operate a very stringent selection procedure. As well as the above, [REDACTED] has also provided me with examples of [REDACTED] work. In short, there is nothing that I am aware of that would preclude [REDACTED] from joining the CHA as a Celebrant.

I would be grateful if you could advise if there are any concerns that you may have or any circumstances that you are party to that I am not.

However, if this meets with your approval, then as per previous applications, I can deal directly with your Marriage Registration Office in terms of the required paperwork.

All the very best,

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

Burns R (Rod)

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 28 April 2016 12:36
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association, new celebrant authorisation request [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED] – thanks for the information. Our main concern would be that if [REDACTED] is to join CHA (which is of course subject to your evaluation of [REDACTED] qualities, as you've indicated) [REDACTED] should have clearly resigned from that organisation before going through your application process, and then seeking authorisation in the normal way. I'm unsighted on the specifics of the situation with HSS (which is as it should be, I feel – NRS maintains good relationships with all of the bodies whose celebrants we authorise, but it's not our place to seek knowledge beyond what supports authorisations and good working relationships) but we would need to know from HSS that [REDACTED] had resigned from the organisation before considering a new application from CHA. Hope that's clear, but happy to talk through. I'm in and out this afternoon, but here from 9 or so in the morning - Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 April 2016 11:07
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Caledonian Humanist Association, new celebrant authorisation request [REDACTED]

Dear Rod,

I hope this finds you well.

I am pleased to say I am writing to request your permission to add a new celebrant to the CHA list of celebrants authorised to conduct legal marriages and civil partnerships.

The celebrants name is [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is currently a celebrant with the Humanist Society Scotland.

In support of the case for [REDACTED] addition, I have attached a list of his upcoming ceremonies for the next three months. [REDACTED] would also establish a presence in the North East that we currently lack and provide an excellent base from which to expand further.

[REDACTED] was recently suspended by the HSS and I understand your office was notified of this. However, [REDACTED] has stated to me that [REDACTED] has fully disclosed to me the details of [REDACTED] suspension pending the outcome of ongoing disciplinary proceedings.

I have read over the materials and along with [REDACTED] CHA Treasurer, met with [REDACTED] in person.

I am satisfied that the issue that the HSS is investigating has nothing to do with either the quality of [REDACTED] ceremonies or [REDACTED] conduct as a Celebrant.

I am also satisfied that the action of the HSS in suspending [REDACTED] is a grossly disproportionate response to the matter.

[REDACTED] also meets our standards in terms of PVG Scheme Membership and is of good character.

Burns R (Rod)

From: McCafferty J (John)
Sent: 03 May 2016 10:46
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association, Authorisation of new Celebrant [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 3 May 2016 to our Marriage Mailbox about the authorisation of [REDACTED]

I understand you spoke to Mr Burns about [REDACTED] last week and, in view of the tight timescale, he has agreed to the authorisation of [REDACTED] for the ceremony on 5th May 2016. The necessary authorisation letter will be sent to [REDACTED]

However, to enable consideration to be given to the other ceremonies you wish to be undertaken by [REDACTED], Mr Burns would like you to put forward to [REDACTED] a robust case as to why your Association requires an additional celebrant authorised to undertake these ceremonies.

Kind regards.

John

John McCafferty
Head of Registration Process Branch | National Records of Scotland | New Register House | 3 West Register Street | Tel: 0131 314 4456

Preserving the past: recording the present: informing the future

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 May 2016 09:34
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Subject: Caledonian Humanist Association, Authorisation of new Celebrant [REDACTED]

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached the following:

- As [REDACTED] was previously a Celebrant with the Humanist Society Scotland, confirmation of [REDACTED] resignation dated 30th April 2016.
- Two letters of support from CHA office bearers.

Please also see below the list of ceremonies for [REDACTED] over the next three months.

Due to the timescale, I would draw your attention to this first ceremony which takes place on Thursday. I apologise for the short notice but this is due to circumstances beyond my control, including yesterday's bank holiday.

[REDACTED]

Burns R (Rod)

From: McCafferty J (John)
Sent: 03 May 2016 14:46
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: RE: Resignation and a few other points

Rod

As you know we have been approached by the Caledonian Humanist Association to approve [REDACTED]. As agreed, I arranged for authorisation for the wedding this week to be approved but asked [REDACTED] to provide you with a robust case as to why they needed [REDACTED] for the other weddings listed. Incidentally, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are already shown as celebrants on the CHA website. [REDACTED] is listed for funerals only. They are a bit quick to include [REDACTED] given we have only authorised [REDACTED] for one wedding.

With regard to the other issues from [REDACTED] if they feel they need more celebrants in the Far North I see no difficulty in them putting celebrants forward for training with a view to authorisation later in the year. I think they will become prescribed body before too long and we will have no control over celebrant numbers then.

I will leave it to you to arrange a catch up in June but I am off from the 15th June until beginning of July.

John

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 May 2016 13:38
To: McCafferty J (John); Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Resignation and a few other points

Hi

I hope you are both well. I have a few points to bring you update you with and clarify.

1. Please be advised that [REDACTED] has resigned from [REDACTED] role as an HSS Registered Celebrant with immediate effect.

[REDACTED] has resigned pending disciplinary action following a complaint against [REDACTED] being investigated and upheld. Another Celebrant, [REDACTED] has also resigned alongside [REDACTED] in exactly the same circumstances. [REDACTED] is a funeral celebrant and has no experience of weddings with HSS nor has [REDACTED] undergone any training in this area with HSS. I suspect there will be an application for authorisation from both at some point and felt it was important that we made you aware of the context surrounding these resignations.

I also want to reassure you this is an isolated incident and not a sign of any division within the organisation.

John - this is same situation I discussed with you regarding the suspension on 20 April 16.

2. We have an issue with lack of capacity in the Far North and have recruited Celebrants in the area who have been undergoing funeral training. Are we able to put these Celebrants forward for wedding training with a view to authorisation later in the year? It is 9 Celebrants and our membership is currently in the region of 14500.

3. Would it be possible to arrange a catch up maybe in June?

Thanks

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | Head of Ceremonies and Chaplaincy
Humanist Society Scotland

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

[Redacted]

Hayweight House, Lauriston Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9DQ.

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Burns R (Rod)

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 05 May 2016 18:02
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association, request for authorisation of new Celebrant
[REDACTED]

Thanks for the update, [REDACTED] and the reasoning for [REDACTED] addition to the list. The information you've provided's fine - Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 May 2016 16:56
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Caledonian Humanist Association, request for authorisation of new Celebrant [REDACTED]

Dear Rod,

I hope this finds you well and that you had a relaxing weekend.

As per our discussion on Friday afternoon, I can confirm that [REDACTED] has submitted [REDACTED] resignation to the Humanist Society Scotland and that said resignation has been acknowledged.

I have submitted a copy of this resignation along with two letters of support from CHA office bearers and a list of [REDACTED] upcoming ceremonies to the Marriage Registration dept.

Your Mr John McCafferty has already been in touch to confirm that [REDACTED] will be authorised for a ceremony on Thursday 5th May and I have thanked him for that.

In terms of going forward for [REDACTED] the case for adding him to the list of authorised Celebrants for the CHA is a straightforward one.

[REDACTED] is based in [REDACTED] around 40 miles from Aberdeen. Currently, the CHA has no presence in that area. Our ethos is that Celebrant's first and foremost, are able to conduct the full range of required ceremonies in their local area. In addition, [REDACTED] training and experience will provide the CHA with a valuable base from which to expand from in the North East of Scotland.

I hope this meets with your approval and if you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

All the very best,

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

Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Burns R (Rod)

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 06 May 2016 10:34
To: McCafferty J (John)
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association, request for authorisation of new Celebrant [REDACTED]

Thanks John – point taken! Will do. Had a useful background chat with [REDACTED] last night, and gave [REDACTED] a quick timeline of the CHA engagement over last week and this, in outline. [REDACTED] reassured me there wasn't any sort of schism at work, and I reassured [REDACTED] we hadn't understood or thought that (and indeed, that in treating every group the same we try to stay out of any internal matters while striving to keep up a good working relationship with all). I think there has been some possible resentment that these new events have taken place against a longer-term internal disciplinary process that wasn't given chance to conclude, but [REDACTED] seemed sanguine, and we've agreed to find a date for a catch-up sometime in the first two weeks of June.

Rod

From: McCafferty J (John)
Sent: 06 May 2016 10:30
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association, request for authorisation of new Celebrant [REDACTED]

Rod

Thanks. I will arrange for the relevant authorisation to be issued to [REDACTED] for the other ceremonies listed in [REDACTED] email of 3 May 2016.

With regard to process for the future, I think it would be useful if you made it clear to [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] needs to provide a robust case for an increase in the number of CHA celebrants before [REDACTED] actually seeks authorisation for them to do weddings. If they are with another organisation they need to have resigned and they should not appear on the CHA website as a wedding celebrant before we have given them authorisation.

John

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 05 May 2016 18:03
To: McCafferty J (John)
Subject: FW: Caledonian Humanist Association, request for authorisation of new Celebrant [REDACTED]

How do – just gone back to [REDACTED] to let [REDACTED] know the info/reasoning on [REDACTED] is fine. Do you want to talk about any of the surrounding process bits and pieces - ?

Rod

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: McCafferty J (John)
Sent: 06 May 2016 10:40
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Subject: FW: Caledonian Humanist Association, request for authorisation of new Celebrant [REDACTED]

Hi

To note CHA have now submitted a case to Rod for [REDACTED] to become a CHA celebrant and Rod has agreed to it. Can you arrange for a letter of authorisation to be sent to [REDACTED] for the remaining marriages in [REDACTED] email of 3 May 2016.

You will note I have asked Rod to make it clear to [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] needs to provide a robust case for an increase in the number of CHA celebrants before [REDACTED] actually seeks authorisation for them to do weddings. If they are with another organisation they need to have resigned and they should not appear on the CHA website as a wedding celebrant before we have given them authorisation.

Thanks.

John

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 06 May 2016 10:34
To: McCafferty J (John)
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association, request for authorisation of new Celebrant [REDACTED]

Thanks John – point taken! Will do. Had a useful background chat with [REDACTED] last night, and gave [REDACTED] a quick timeline of the CHA engagement over last week and this, in outline. [REDACTED] reassured me there wasn't any sort of schism at work, and I reassured [REDACTED] we hadn't understood or thought that (and indeed, that in treating every group the same we try to stay out of any internal matters while striving to keep up a good working relationship with all). I think there has been some possible resentment that these new events have taken place against a longer-term internal disciplinary process that wasn't given chance to conclude, but [REDACTED] seemed sanguine, and we've agreed to find a date for a catch-up sometime in the first two weeks of June.

Rod

From: McCafferty J (John)
Sent: 06 May 2016 10:30
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association, request for authorisation of new Celebrant [REDACTED]

Rod

Thanks. I will arrange for the relevant authorisation to be issued to [REDACTED] for the other ceremonies listed in [REDACTED] email of 3 May 2016.

Burns R (Rod)

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 01 September 2016 17:50
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Couple of issues

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you as Secretary of the Caledonian Humanist Association to raise a couple of issues which have been brought to my attention with regard to one of CHA's celebrants.

Firstly, the following article in the *Daily Record* about [REDACTED] (<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/real-life/man-married-thousand-times--8473839#kGKCw5RFiUIWj644.97>) implies that ceremonies undertaken by registrars are less personal and flexible than those provided by a Humanist celebrant. Statements such as "standard-issue register office do" and "with a church or state wedding ... you put your name to a standard ceremony" don't fit with the reality of modern civil marriage: registrars are in fact more than happy to tailor a ceremony to a couple's wishes. In addition, [REDACTED] comment that "I have no pension plan" is of concern, as it does tend to suggest [REDACTED] may be solemnising marriages for profit and gain contrary to the provisions of the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977.

The second issue relates to a telephone complaint we received about [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] whose marriage [REDACTED] solemnised [REDACTED] advised us that [REDACTED] phoned [REDACTED] about two hours before the wedding, which was due to start at 1:30, to say [REDACTED] would be half an hour late. As I'm sure you will appreciate, this had a knock on effect on the proceedings for the rest of the day. [REDACTED] stated the whole ceremony was rushed, important parts were missed out and that [REDACTED] made inappropriate comments to [REDACTED] and to [REDACTED] family members. [REDACTED] booked [REDACTED] in 2014, and all the correspondence with [REDACTED] states the time booked as 1:30. We understand the couple contacted [REDACTED] after the event, and [REDACTED] has apologised and offered to return their fee. I note from our records that [REDACTED] had authorisation to solemnise another wedding on that same date. I am concerned that such problems may arise again if [REDACTED] has more than one booking. From our records, there appear to be another four dates when [REDACTED] is due to solemnise two marriages, and one date when [REDACTED] is solemnising three.

To enable us to best consider what – if any – further action is required with regard to these matters, I would appreciate CHA's comments and any additional information you may wish to offer.

Yours

Rod Burns

Deputy Registrar General
National Records of Scotland

Preserving the past; recording the present; informing the future

Burns R (Rod)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 September 2016 09:33
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: RE: Couple of issues

Dear Rod,

Thank you for your email.

I will speak to [REDACTED] and revert back to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Humanist Celebrant
Authorised to conduct legal weddings in Scotland
Secretary
Caledonian Humanist Association
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Follow me on Facebook: [REDACTED]
Caledonian Humanist Association is a non-profit making organisation

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From: Rod.Burns@nrscotland.gov.uk [mailto:Rod.Burns@nrscotland.gov.uk]
Sent: 01 September 2016 17:50
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Couple of issues

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you as Secretary of the Caledonian Humanist Association to raise a couple of issues which have been brought to my attention with regard to one of CHA's celebrants.

Firstly, the following article in the *Daily Record* about [REDACTED] (<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/real-life/man-married-thousand-times--8473839#kGKCw5RFjUIWj644.97>) implies that ceremonies undertaken by registrars are less personal and flexible than those provided by a Humanist celebrant. Statements such as "standard-issue register office do" and "with a church or state wedding ... you put your name to a standard ceremony" don't fit with the reality of modern civil marriage: registrars are in fact more than happy to tailor a ceremony to a couple's wishes. In addition, [REDACTED] comment that "I have no pension plan" is of concern, as it does tend to suggest [REDACTED] may be solemnising marriages for profit and gain contrary to the provisions of the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977.

McCafferty J (John)

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 04 October 2016 16:52
To: McCafferty J (John)
Subject: Couple of issues

1. Mrs Smith WS 5/10/16
2. Mrs Rodgers R 5/10/16
To note and file.

Here's the response from [redacted] - Rod

McCafferty
5/10/16

From: [redacted]
Sent: 06 September 2016 17:18
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: RE: Couple of issues

Dear Mr Burns,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond to the issues you raised in your email of the 5th September.

I have had the opportunity to discuss these issues with [redacted] who is being dealt with through our internal disciplinary procedure.

1) The Daily Record

As Humanists, we believe passionately in freedom of belief, speech, thought and expression. In order to accommodate this, CHA policy in this matter is currently two-fold; that Celebrants are free to express their views to the press, on social media etc. as long as it is made clear that the views expressed are those of the Celebrant only and that only officers of the CHA are permitted to speak on behalf of the association.

It is now clear that this policy needs to be revised. I will be issuing guidelines to the effect that Celebrants should refer press enquiries to an officer of the CHA. These guidelines will also require that any potential "newspaper copy" or similar is submitted to an officer of the CHA for approval before release.

Respect for others is at the heart of everything we do and [redacted] states [redacted] is well aware that Registrars and some churches are now more than happy to tailor a ceremony to a couple's wishes.

Regarding the article in the Daily Record, [redacted] position is that [redacted] was misquoted. It was not [redacted] intention to convey incorrect information and [redacted] apologises unreservedly.

2) The complaint from [redacted]

I have contacted [redacted] to discuss [redacted] complaint although at time of writing, [redacted] has not yet responded.

It is an unfortunate fact of life that no matter how much care is taken, sooner or later, a Celebrant is going to be late and the reasons for this are too numerous to mention.

However, the complaint by [REDACTED] has brought into focus the issue of Celebrants conducting more than one ceremony in a day.

I do share your concerns at this practice as any delays can have a knock-on effect.

Until now, we have left the decision to the individual Celebrant as to whether it is appropriate to conduct multiple ceremonies in a day. It is now clear that we must look more closely at this matter in order to decide whether or not our policy should be amended.

I wonder, would it possible for you to provide us with any guidance that local Registrars use as it may be useful to us in reformulating our policy?

3) Solemnising marriages for profit or gain.

The issue of Celebrants or organisations solemnising marriages for profit or gain, contrary to the provisions of the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977 is one that we at the CHA take extremely seriously.

To explain, we see Celebrancy as a vocation. It's not a job. It's not a career. Our ethos is that our Celebrants serve their local communities and the wider public by being there when needed to conduct the full range of ceremonies for those who share our beliefs i.e. funerals, namings and when authorised, marriages.

Right from the first contact with any potential Trainee Celebrant, we do our utmost to ascertain their appetite for conducting funerals as we feel this is the most important ceremony a Celebrant conducts.

Many potential candidates who apply to us are only interested in conducting weddings. Such applications are rejected, no matter how impressive their stated achievements and qualifications may be.

Those who make it through our selection process are then trained by us in conducting funerals before any other ceremony.

Even when a Celebrant is authorised to conduct legal weddings, it is our policy that they also continue to make themselves available to conduct funerals. We do not allow our Celebrants to only conduct weddings, a policy that to our knowledge, no other Humanist organisation has implemented.

We were very concerned at some of the practices of other Humanist organisations and we felt that, sooner or later, these practices would come to the attention of your office and action would be taken.

We took all of this into account when the CHA was being organised; it was structured specifically to avoid any such allegations or even a suspicion.

With regard to the remarks [REDACTED] is alleged to have made to the Daily Record [REDACTED] supplied me with further information for your consideration.

[REDACTED] spoke to the reporter [REDACTED] for a good twenty minutes when [REDACTED] called [REDACTED] and when [REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] about the future, [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] sees Celebrancy as a vocation, not a job. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] that the funerals [REDACTED] conducts are every bit as important as the weddings, and that [REDACTED] hopes to continue to serve [REDACTED] community in this role for as long as [REDACTED] can walk, talk, and write. [REDACTED] chose not to use that. Instead [REDACTED] used something [REDACTED] said as a joke – "I have no pension plan" which was a metaphorical reference to [REDACTED] devotion to Humanism, in particular [REDACTED] desire to continue conducting ceremonies until the day [REDACTED] is no longer physically able to.

I am confident that [REDACTED] is not breaking any law.

On the contrary, [REDACTED] is one of the most committed Humanists in Scotland that I know. For example, as well as tirelessly serving [REDACTED] local community through conducting ceremonies, [REDACTED] is the Humanist Chaplain at [REDACTED]

University. Just this week [redacted] travelled down to Durham to take part in a chaplaincy conference, all at [redacted] own expense. [redacted] works closely with bereavement charities and conducts many funerals for no remuneration. [redacted] visits schools, delivers memorial services, takes part in debates and the like, all at [redacted] own expense. [redacted] is full of drive and energy and is passionate about many different causes – [redacted] also shows no signs of slowing down.

[redacted] conducts more funerals than [redacted] does weddings and the reason [redacted] does so many weddings is simply that [redacted] ceremonies are so popular couples approach [redacted] directly.

Rather than doing as many ceremonies as [redacted] can in order to enrich [redacted] [redacted] is doing [redacted] utmost to accommodate as many of these ceremony requests as possible to avoid disappointing the families and couples who ask specifically for [redacted] services. We encourage our Celebrants to form close relationships with the families and couples for whom they conduct ceremonies as it means so much to a bereaved family or a wedding couple to have that continuity and relationship with a particular Celebrant.

I hope that the additional information I have supplied is sufficient and I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
Humanist Celebrant

Authorised to conduct legal weddings in Scotland

Secretary

Caledonian Humanist Association

Mobile: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Follow me on Facebook: [redacted]

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Burns R (Rod)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 October 2016 13:22
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: [REDACTED] Humanist Celebrant, Caledonian Humanist Association, Withdrawal of authorisation to solemnise marriage ceremonies.

Dear Rod,

I hope this finds you well.

I write to inform you that [REDACTED] has been given 14 days' notice of the termination of [REDACTED] membership of the Caledonian Humanist Association and will therefore no longer be authorised to solemnise marriages on behalf of the association after the 24th October.

If you require this decision to be communicated in a format other than this email, please let me know and I will provide any documentation by return.

[REDACTED] has been given this 14-day notice period in order to allow [REDACTED] an opportunity to find another organisation with which to practise [REDACTED] Celebrancy.

After the issues you raised concerning [REDACTED] were resolved, I undertook an overhaul of CHA policies. One of the policies related to how the CHA organises cover in the event of a Celebrant being unable to conduct ceremonies, both in the short and the long-term.

Regretfully, [REDACTED] has refused to co-operate and in the event of an emergency, we would not be able to provide cover for [REDACTED]. This has left us with no choice but to move on without [REDACTED] at the earliest possible opportunity.

In the circumstances, we have advised [REDACTED] that in the event of [REDACTED] being unable to find another organisation then if [REDACTED] provides us with details of all the ceremonies [REDACTED] currently has booked, we can provide cover and we are awaiting [REDACTED] response by 5pm Friday 14th October.

Hopefully, [REDACTED] will be successful in finding another organisation.

However if this was not the case and [REDACTED] refuses to divulge [REDACTED] future ceremonies (which sadly would be in keeping with [REDACTED] conduct) would you be willing to provide details of the ceremonies after the 24th October for which M10 forms have already been submitted?

If you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Humanist Celebrant
Authorised to conduct legal weddings in Scotland
Secretary
Caledonian Humanist Association
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Follow me on Facebook: [REDACTED]

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: Rodgers L (Lynne)
Sent: 31 October 2016 14:03
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: RE: Re [REDACTED]

Hello Rod

[REDACTED] is now with Humanism in Scotland.

[REDACTED] resigned from the CHA on 17 October but had two outstanding weddings, one on 29 October and the other on 5 November. [REDACTED] applied and was granted temporary authorisation to conduct these weddings on behalf of Humanism in Scotland. The couples in question also provided written confirmation that they were still happy for [REDACTED] to conduct their weddings despite the fact that [REDACTED] had changed organisations.

~ R103/3/249

Kind regards

Lynne

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 27 October 2016 10:38
To: Rodgers L (Lynne)
Subject: FW: Re [REDACTED]

Hi Lynne -- I've had a further query from [REDACTED] about one of their celebrants (who's no longer with CHA), [REDACTED]. I think [REDACTED] only had a couple of upcoming weddings and [REDACTED] didn't want the couples to be let down. Can you confirm [REDACTED] hasn't applied for authorisation with any other organisation? (I believe CHA are then going to cover the weddings themselves.)

Ta - Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 October 2016 17:15
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: RE: Re [REDACTED]

Hi Rod,

I hope you enjoyed your break.

Other than [REDACTED] resignation letter, I have received no correspondence from [REDACTED]

Could you please confirm if [REDACTED] has applied for authorisation through another organisation as I don't want to assume that [REDACTED] weddings are covered?

Best wishes,

Burns R (Rod)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 November 2016 17:01
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Caledonian Humanist Association, request for authorisation for three

Dear Rod,

I hope this finds you well.

We have three new Celebrants who have completed their training to conduct legal marriages and with your permission, we would like to add them to our list of authorised Celebrants.

They are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

The case for adding them is as follows:

As per CHA policy, all three Celebrants are available to conduct funerals in their local communities.

The addition of [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] area of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who is [REDACTED] would allow us to expand into these areas where we currently have no presence.

The addition of [REDACTED] who is based in [REDACTED] would not only further our presence in [REDACTED], it would also give us some much needed backup to [REDACTED] and help to alleviate his workload.

I hope this meets with your approval and if it does, I will forward the necessary letters of support to the registration team as per previous approvals.

If you require any further information then I would of course be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Follow me on Facebook: [REDACTED]

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Burns R (Rod)

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 11 November 2016 11:34
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] Humanist Celebrant, Caledonian Humanist Association, Withdrawal of authorisation to solemnise marriage ceremonies

Thanks [REDACTED] - do you have a date you would like us to alert registrars to [REDACTED] departure, or is this immediate?

Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 November 2016 18:09
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: [REDACTED] Humanist Celebrant, Caledonian Humanist Association, Withdrawal of authorisation to solemnise marriage ceremonies

Dear Rod,

I write to inform you that with immediate effect, [REDACTED] is no longer authorised to solemnise marriages on behalf of the CHA.

Sadly [REDACTED] did not comply with the policies that we put into operation at the beginning of October, policies that protect not only the CHA and its Celebrants, but more importantly the couples who engage our services.

We expect our Celebrants to adhere to the highest of standards and simply put [REDACTED] did not meet those standards.

To the best of my knowledge, [REDACTED] has no other ceremonies pending this year and therefore has ample time to make arrangements for any ceremonies he may have after that date.

Yours sincerely,

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

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Follow me on Facebook: [REDACTED]

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Burns R (Rod)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 November 2016 09:38
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] Humanist Celebrant, Caledonian Humanist Association, Withdrawal of authorisation to solemnise marriage ceremonies

Dear Rod,

I hope you had a good weekend.

[REDACTED] departure is with immediate effect.

[REDACTED] informed us that [REDACTED] had no confirmed bookings after the 5th November; however [REDACTED] now claims [REDACTED] has a 'last-minute booking' for the 17th December for which [REDACTED] has already received authorisation. In the circumstances we now consider this authorisation to be withdrawn.

I have informed [REDACTED] that if [REDACTED] cannot obtain authorisation elsewhere, we will do our best to provide alternative cover.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

From: Rod.Burns@nrscotland.gov.uk [mailto:Rod.Burns@nrscotland.gov.uk]

Sent: 11 November 2016 11:34

To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] Humanist Celebrant, Caledonian Humanist Association, Withdrawal of authorisation to solemnise marriage ceremonies

Thanks [REDACTED] – do you have a date you would like us to alert registrars to [REDACTED] departure, or is this immediate?

Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 November 2016 18:09
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: [REDACTED] Humanist Celebrant, Caledonian Humanist Association, Withdrawal of authorisation to solemnise marriage ceremonies

Dear Rod,

I write to inform you that with immediate effect, [REDACTED] is no longer authorised to solemnise marriages on behalf of the CHA.

Sadly [REDACTED] did not comply with the policies that we put into operation at the beginning of October, policies that protect not only the CHA and its Celebrants, but more importantly the couples who engage our services.

We expect our Celebrants to adhere to the highest of standards and simply put, [REDACTED] did not meet those standards.

Burns R (Rod)

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 14 November 2016 12:46
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] Humanist Celebrant, Caledonian Humanist Association, Withdrawal of authorisation to solemnise marriage ceremonies

Thanks – I'll get marriage section to write out to registrars with that effect. Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 November 2016 09:38
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] Humanist Celebrant, Caledonian Humanist Association, Withdrawal of authorisation to solemnise marriage ceremonies

Dear Rod,

I hope you had a good weekend.

[REDACTED] departure is with immediate effect.

[REDACTED] informed us that [REDACTED] had no confirmed bookings after the 5th November; however [REDACTED] now claims [REDACTED] has a 'last-minute booking' for the 17th December for which [REDACTED] has already received authorisation. In the circumstances we now consider this authorisation to be withdrawn.

I have informed [REDACTED] that if [REDACTED] cannot obtain authorisation elsewhere, we will do our best to provide alternative cover.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

From: Rod.Burns@nrscotland.gov.uk [mailto:Rod.Burns@nrscotland.gov.uk]

Sent: 11 November 2016 11:34

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [REDACTED] Humanist Celebrant, Caledonian Humanist Association, Withdrawal of authorisation to solemnise marriage ceremonies

Thanks [REDACTED] – do you have a date you would like us to alert registrars to [REDACTED] departure, or is this immediate?

Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 November 2016 18:09
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: [REDACTED] Humanist Celebrant, Caledonian Humanist Association, Withdrawal of authorisation to solemnise marriage ceremonies

Dear Rod,

Burns R (Rod)

From: Rodgers L (Lynne) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 15 November 2016 09:50
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] Humanist Celebrant, Caledonian Humanist Association, Withdrawal of authorisation to solemnise marriage ceremonies

Hello Rod

I have now written to [REDACTED] informing [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] authorisation has been withdrawn and that [REDACTED] is no longer supported by the CHA to solemnise weddings on its behalf. I have sent a copy of my letter to the Registrars in Inverness.

Lynne

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 14 November 2016 12:48
To: Rodgers L (Lynne)
Cc: McCafferty J (John)
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] Humanist Celebrant, Caledonian Humanist Association, Withdrawal of authorisation to solemnise marriage ceremonies

Hi Lynne – short back and forth (below) with CHA at the end of last week – [REDACTED] has confirmed [REDACTED] is no longer supported by them, with immediate effect. Grateful if you could write to registrars letting them know – ta. Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 November 2016 09:38
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] Humanist Celebrant, Caledonian Humanist Association, Withdrawal of authorisation to solemnise marriage ceremonies

Dear Rod,

I hope you had a good weekend.

[REDACTED] departure is with immediate effect.

[REDACTED] informed us that [REDACTED] had no confirmed bookings after the 5th November; however [REDACTED] now claims [REDACTED] has a 'last-minute booking' for the 17th December for which [REDACTED] has already received authorisation. In the circumstances we now consider this authorisation to be withdrawn.

I have informed [REDACTED] that if [REDACTED] cannot obtain authorisation elsewhere, we will do our best to provide alternative cover.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: Rodgers L (Lynne) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 06 January 2017 08:41
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Stewart R (Russell)
Subject: RE: CHA Celebrants [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail and attachments.

We will now go ahead and process the request for [REDACTED] authorisation and keep the letters of support in respect of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on file until we receive their first request for temporary authorisation. R 103/3/251.

Kind regards

Lynne

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 January 2017 16:13
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Subject: CHA Celebrants [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Dear Russell,

I hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing festive period.

I understand you were in correspondence with [REDACTED] last week to the effect that you did not have on file the necessary letters of support from CHA office bearers.

This was an oversight on my part for which I apologise. In addition to [REDACTED] there are two other Celebrants and I felt it was easiest to deal with all three in one email.

Please find attached letters of support from myself as the Secretary and [REDACTED] as the Treasurer for all three Celebrants.

You also mentioned to [REDACTED] that Rod Burns was on annual leave and you did not have access to his emails. I have therefore attached the email that he sent to me approving the case for adding these Celebrants.

I hope all this meets with your approval.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need anything else.

All the very best,

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

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: Rodgers L (Lynne) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 20 January 2017 16:52
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association authorisation to conduct legal marriages

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail.

Your request for CHA celebrants to be given a full authorisation (3 year period) will probably be looked on favourably. However, we will have to look into how we manage this administratively and I will provide you with a more substantive reply in due course.

Have a good weekend too.

Kind regards

Lynne

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 January 2017 14:46
To: Rodgers L (Lynne)
Subject: Caledonian Humanist Association authorisation to conduct legal marriages

Dear Lynne,

I hope this finds you well.

As you will know, currently Celebrants of the Caledonian Humanist Association (CHA) are authorised to conduct legal marriages on a ceremony by ceremony basis.

Some time ago, I brought up with you the subject of how the CHA would go about obtaining lengthier authorisation, i.e. three year authorisations which a number of other humanist organisations have. At that time, you informed me that usually NRS looks at this once an organisation has been running for around two years and therefore early 2017 would be the earliest time you could re-visit this issue.

When you have a few moments, I would be grateful if you could let me know what you would require from me in order to consider a request from the CHA to move onto three year authorisations.

Have a great weekend and I look forward to hearing from you.

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

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Follow me on Facebook: [REDACTED]

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 February 2017 21:12
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association authorisation to conduct legal marriages

Hi Lynne,

That's great news thank you very much!

I can confirm that I am the main nominator and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

All the best,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Humanist Celebrant
Authorised to conduct legal weddings in Scotland
Secretary
Caledonian Humanist Association
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: a [REDACTED]
Follow me on Facebook: [REDACTED]
Caledonian Humanist Association is a non-profit making organisation

Information in this e-mail, including any attachments, may be confidential or privileged and is intended only for the addressee. Opinions expressed may be personal to the author rather than represent Association policy. The sender has taken reasonable precautions against the presence of viruses but recipients should also check.

From: Lynne.Rodgers@nrscotland.gov.uk [mailto:Lynne.Rodgers@nrscotland.gov.uk] **On Behalf Of** marriage@nrscotland.gov.uk
Sent: 03 February 2017 15:56
To: a [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association authorisation to conduct legal marriages

Hello [REDACTED]

It has been agreed that the CHA celebrants who have been given temporary authorisations can now be considered for a full authorisation (3 year period).

We will put CHA into Group 1 with the other religious and belief organisations which have a main nominator. The authorisation period for celebrants in Group 1 is due to end on 31 December 2017. We would therefore intend to include the CHA in this year's renomination exercise and will send out the nomination forms in August this year. This means that your celebrants' period of authorisation would be from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020. Meanwhile they would continue to apply for temporary authorisations in the usual way for any weddings due to take place on or before 31 December this year.

Burns R (Rod)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 June 2017 10:37
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Caledonian Humanist Association, Request for Authorisation for Celebrants to Conduct Legal Marriages

Dear Rod,

I hope this finds you well.

We have five Celebrants who have completed our training to conduct legal marriages and with your permission, we would like to add them to our list of authorised Celebrants.

They are:

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

The case for adding them is as follows:

As per CHA policy, before being considered for wedding training, all five Celebrants have completed an approved course of funeral training and are available to conduct funerals in their local communities.

Through their funeral work, they have been asked by families that they have worked with as to their availability to conduct weddings. Many families form a strong bond with the Celebrant who has conducted a funeral for them and look forward to working with them again on a much happier occasion, and this is a relationship that we strongly encourage.

In addition, I have a number of couples on a waiting list as our ceremony requests far exceed our ability to meet demand.

I hope this meets with your approval and if it does, I will forward the necessary letters of support to the registration team as per previous approvals.

If you require any further information then I would of course be happy to assist.

I look forward to hearing from you.

All the very best,

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

Burns R (Rod)

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 13 June 2017 15:20
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association, Request for Authorisation for Celebrants to Conduct Legal Marriages

Thanks [REDACTED] – apologies for the delay. Happy for you to proceed and contact marriage team as previously – Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 June 2017 10:37
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Caledonian Humanist Association, Request for Authorisation for Celebrants to Conduct Legal Marriages

Dear Rod,

I hope this finds you well.

We have five Celebrants who have completed our training to conduct legal marriages and with your permission, we would like to add them to our list of authorised Celebrants.

They are:

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

The case for adding them is as follows:

As per CHA policy, before being considered for wedding training, all five Celebrants have completed an approved course of funeral training and are available to conduct funerals in their local communities.

Through their funeral work, they have been asked by families that they have worked with as to their availability to conduct weddings. Many families form a strong bond with the Celebrant who has conducted a funeral for them and look forward to working with them again on a much happier occasion, and this is a relationship that we strongly encourage.

In addition, I have a number of couples on a waiting list as our ceremony requests far exceed our ability to meet demand.

I hope this meets with your approval and if it does, I will forward the necessary letters of support to the registration team as per previous approvals.

If you require any further information then I would of course be happy to assist.

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: Rodgers L (Lynne) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 15 June 2017 08:49
To: Smith WE (Wilma); Burns R (Rod)
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association, Request for Authorisation for Celebrants to Conduct Legal Marriages

Hello Rod

We're happy for the additional celebrants to be authorised.

However, it would be helpful if the letters of support are sent with the celebrants' first application for temporary authorisation and not before then as we have to keep the letters separately until we get the requests. We already have so much paperwork on the go at the moment.

Lynne

From: Smith WE (Wilma)
Sent: 13 June 2017 15:00
To: Burns R (Rod); Rodgers L (Lynne)
Cc: NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association, Request for Authorisation for Celebrants to Conduct Legal Marriages

Seems fine to me Rod (Lynne is on leave till tomorrow).

Wilma

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 13 June 2017 14:56
To: Smith WE (Wilma); Rodgers L (Lynne)
Subject: FW: Caledonian Humanist Association, Request for Authorisation for Celebrants to Conduct Legal Marriages

How do – apols; forgot to pass this on before heading out Thursday last week. This seems reasonable to me (falls in line with their earlier reasoning in seeking permission to train) – happy?

Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 June 2017 10:37
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Caledonian Humanist Association, Request for Authorisation for Celebrants to Conduct Legal Marriages

Dear Rod,

I hope this finds you well.

Burns R (Rod)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 June 2017 16:04
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Re: Info

Hi Rod

The Constitutions / Trust Deeds are missing for all except 'A Quiet Revolution' and I have only seen reference to meeting frequency within the documents for the Fuze Foundation and the Love Society.

Also, there was no information at all for BHA, Alba Society or the Caledonian Humanist Association.

There was no information for the Findhorn Foundation or TLC although I think they are outwith the scope as I'm not sure they are Humanist or Interfaith.

However, you'll know I've had a further email advising that a physical package will be sent through in addition.

Thanks and apologies again for the extra work.

[REDACTED]
On Tue, Jun 27, 2017 at 6:03 PM, <Rod.Burns@nrscotland.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED] – all of the constitutions and meeting frequency info should be in the materials sent out (we included them in our physical package, which was then scanned and sent on by FOI unit colleagues). Is there material missing?

Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 June 2017 18:28
To: NRS : Freedom of Information Mailbox
Subject: Re: FOI request on Humanist celebrants - FOI/17/01309

Thank you - that's helpful to have confirmation.

Regarding the reference to the information requested in point 4 being available via websites, I have been unable to find constitutions or information about frequency of meetings for the majority of these groups. Most of them make no reference to meetings?

Also, there is no information for the Caledonian Humanist Association or TLC which I assume would be available on the same basis as the information provided for the other providers?

Many thanks
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Your reference

Our reference R103/1/486 - Caledonian
Humanist Association

Date 1 August 2017

[REDACTED]

MARRIAGE (SCOTLAND) ACT 1977 - APPROVED CELEBRANTS

I refer to your recent email correspondence requesting celebrant's on behalf of the Caledonian Humanist Association be nominated as approved celebrants from the 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020.


To assist in this matter I enclose a supply of nomination forms (M13(R)) and explanatory note (M12(R)). The nomination forms, duly completed and signed, should be returned to Marriage Section, NRS, New Register House, Edinburgh EH1 3YT **no later than 3 October 2017.**

In the event of the persons nominated being approved by the Registrar General their names will be recorded in the Register of Approved Celebrants, and we shall notify you accordingly early in December. At the same time we shall send each approved celebrant a letter of authorisation.

To assist us in updating our records I should also be grateful if you would forward a copy of your religious or belief body's current constitution together with the form of marriage ceremony used by your celebrants **if these have changed since they were last submitted.**

If you require any assistance you can contact me on 0131 314 4475.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Stewart

Enc

Stewart R (Russell)

From: Stewart R (Russell) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 31 October 2017 15:46
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Marriage Authorisation from 1st January 2018

Hi [REDACTED]

I can confirm receipt of all 12 celebrants forms and can confirm that the approval letters will be sent out on the 1 December 2017.

Yours sincerely

Stewart Russell
Casework Administrator

National Records of Scotland
New Register House
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

Tel: 0131 314 4475
Fax: 0131 314 4532

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 October 2017 15:38
To: Rodgers L (Lynne)
Subject: Marriage Authorisation from 1st January 2018

Hi Lynne,

I hope you're well.

As you will know, I returned the documentation to apply for three year authorisations and I believe this is to begin from the 1st January.

Can you let me know if this has been approved and therefore CHA Celebrants will not have to send in their list of ceremonies from the 1st January which are now due?

All the best,

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

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: Rodgers L (Lynne) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 10 November 2017 10:31
To: Burns R (Rod); McCafferty J (John)
Cc: Stewart R (Russell)
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association, Request for Authorisation for Celebrants to Conduct Legal Marriages

Hello Rod

Happy for the new celebrants to be authorised (I note that [REDACTED] used to be with Fuze). However the CHA is included in this year's re-nomination exercise which is almost complete and we are unable to authorise any new celebrants at the moment as the timescale for returning the nomination forms has passed.

Therefore [REDACTED] should be advised to request nomination forms for the four new celebrants at the beginning of February next year when we will be in a position to process them.

Lynne

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 10 November 2017 10:11
To: McCafferty J (John); Rodgers L (Lynne)
Subject: FW: Caledonian Humanist Association, Request for Authorisation for Celebrants to Conduct Legal Marriages

How do –now getting back to outstanding correspondence, though no puff of white smoke quite yet for the third examiner! These seem fine to me – happy for me to go back to AmcS?

Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 October 2017 15:42
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Caledonian Humanist Association, Request for Authorisation for Celebrants to Conduct Legal Marriages

Dear Rod,

I hope this finds you well and that you have finished sifting through applications.

I write to ask your permission to add four new Celebrants to the list of those authorised to conduct legal marriages on behalf of the Caledonian Humanist Association.

They are:

[REDACTED] who is based in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who is based in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who is based in [REDACTED]

Burns R (Rod)

From: Burns R (Rod)
Sent: 10 November 2017 11:31
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Caledonian Humanist Association, Request for Authorisation for Celebrants to Conduct Legal Marriages

Hi [REDACTED] - apologies for the delay. At the end of the interviewing as of yesterday, and currently trying to get to a decision. Happy with your four new celebrants, but on process got a note from marriage section -
"CHA is included in this year's re-nomination exercise which is almost complete and we are unable to authorise any new celebrants at the moment as the timescale for returning the nomination forms has passed. Can [REDACTED] request nomination forms for the four new celebrants at the beginning of February next year when we will be in a position to process them".

Is that ok?

Rod

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 October 2017 15:42
To: Burns R (Rod)
Subject: Caledonian Humanist Association, Request for Authorisation for Celebrants to Conduct Legal Marriages

Dear Rod,

I hope this finds you well and that you have finished sifting through applications.

I write to ask your permission to add four new Celebrants to the list of those authorised to conduct legal marriages on behalf of the Caledonian Humanist Association.

They are:

[REDACTED] who is based in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who is based in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who is based in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who is based in [REDACTED]

As per CHA policy, before being considered for wedding training, all four Celebrants have completed an approved course of funeral training and are available to conduct funerals in their local communities.

Through their funeral work, they have been asked by families that they have worked with as to their availability to conduct weddings. Many families form a strong bond with the Celebrant who has conducted a funeral for them and look forward to working with them again on a much happier occasion, and this is a relationship that we strongly encourage.

Rodgers L (Lynne)

From: Rodgers L (Lynne) on behalf of NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Sent: 23 November 2017 09:35
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: New Celebrant Nomination Dates

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail.

As the CHA is included in this year's re-nomination exercise we are unable to authorise any new celebrants as the timescale for returning the nomination forms has passed and the exercise is almost complete. This is why we have asked for you to request nomination forms for your four new celebrants at the beginning of February 2018 when we will be in a position to process them.

When you request the nomination forms in February we will send them out to you. We will then process them when they are returned to us (within 10 working days of receipt) and so the period of authorisation for your four new celebrants will begin when this has been done i.e. mid February or early March depending when we receive the completed forms.

There is only a time constriction on the processing of nomination forms if the religious or belief body is included in the re-nomination exercise. Therefore an organisation can request and return a celebrant's nomination form at any time throughout the year if it is not included in that year's re-nomination exercise. The celebrant's period of authorisation would begin from when the nomination form is processed.

If it has been agreed that you can have additional marriage celebrants, a celebrant can be considered for a temporary authorisation to conduct a particular wedding before the nomination process involving him/her has been processed. On the first occasion a celebrant is asked to conduct a particular wedding, as well as the full names of the couple getting married and the date and venue of the wedding we will require letters of support from two office bearers from within the CHA.

I hope that my reply is helpful.

Kind regards

Lynne

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 November 2017 20:30
To: Rodgers L (Lynne)
Subject: New Celebrant Nomination Dates

Dear Lynne,

I hope this finds you well.

As you will know, I recently applied for permission to authorise four new Celebrants for the CHA. Rod replied to say this was fine, but with a note from the Registration team asking me to request the nomination forms for these Celebrants in February, as the previous nomination process had now past.

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

4 FORMS SENT

National Records of Scotland
New Register House
Edinburgh
EH1 3YT

RS 5/3/18

Tel: 0131 314 4475
Fax: 0131 314 4532

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 March 2018 10:36
To: NRS : Marriage Mailbox
Subject: RE: New Celebrant Nomination Dates

Hi Lynne,

I hope you're well and things are getting back to normal after the chaos of last week!

As per the email below, can you please send me out the nomination forms so I can get them filled in and returned to you asap?

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: [REDACTED]

Caledonian Humanist Association is a non-profit making organisation

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 man 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

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 man 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

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] 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 minute!

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]

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[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

Registered Address: Playfair House, 6 Broughton Street Lane, Edinburgh, EH1 3LY.

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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]
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To: Burns R (Rod)
Cc: [REDACTED]
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Thanks
[REDACTED]

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[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 didnt 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's 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