

Subject: Access to information relating to the authorisation of those authorised to solemnise marriage in Scotland and correspondence with their respective belief bodies

FOI reference: FOI/19/00826

Date received: 21 March 2019

Date responded: 26 April 2019

Information requested:

Request for “information relating to the authorisation of those authorised to solemnise marriage in Scotland and correspondence with their respective belief bodies. **I am not seeking information relating to religious bodies, with the exception of the TLC Faith. I am not seeking correspondence with Humanist Society Scotland.** Specifically, I request the following:

1. Copies of all correspondence with and concerning Belief bodies and TLC Faith relating to **authorisation of Celebrants** (or equivalent)
2. Copies of all correspondence with Belief bodies and TLC Faith regarding their ongoing compliance with the statutory test for a Belief Body
3. Details of all Celebrants (or equivalent) authorised to solemnise marriage and / or register civil partnership in Scotland under Sec 12 and Sec 9 of the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977 / Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014. Details requested are NAME / TYPE OF AUTHORISATION (under Sec 9 or 12) / DATE AUTHORISED / DATE AUTHORISATION EXPIRES / CELEBRANT'S BELIEF BODY (EXTENDED TO TLC FAITH)

Time Period

I am interested in information dated 15 December 2017 to Present.

Please be advised that we have a previous response to an FOI request relating to Caledonian Humanist Association and correspondence with and concerning that particular group between 1 January 2017 and 21 June 2018. Therefore, we only request correspondence with and concerning Caledonian Humanist Association between 22 Jun 2018 and present day.”

NRS Response:

The attached files provide details of correspondence with and about all belief bodies (not religious groups) and TLC Faith from December 2017 to the present, including on issues of compliance with the statutory test for a belief body, as well as shareable details of individual celebrants that do not constitute personal data. As our ongoingly-updated list of celebrants does not contain the initial date a celebrant is authorised, or his/her type of authorisation, but name/designation/body/church code/ceremony type and approval expiry date, those available components of the request have been included alphabetically by belief body and celebrant.

Some information in the files has been redacted. An exemption under section 38(1)(b) of FOISA applies to this information because it is personal data of third parties and disclosing it would contravene the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation and in section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018. This exemption is not subject to the ‘public interest test’, so we

are not required to consider if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption.