

From: Richard Burrett
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 10:57 AM
To: Jacquie Russell <Jacquie.Russell@westsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: SACRE - request from Church of Scientology
Importance: High

Hi Jacquie,

As promised when we spoke yesterday, I have had a look back through the archives, and this is the thread of messages I referred to relating to the request from the Church of Scientology to nominate a representative to the West Sussex SACRE.

There is a further thread which I will forward on shortly.

Best regards,

Richard.

From: Jack Bacon <Jack.Bacon@westsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 8:10 AM
To: Richard Burrett <richard.burrett@westsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: SACRE - request from Church of Scientology

Hi Richard,

Apologies for my delayed reply and I'm glad to hear it didn't come as a total surprise to you, thank you for explaining.

I went back to [REDACTION NOTE – reference to the person representing the Church of Scientology who made the original approach to Jack Bacon] on Friday, setting out what he needs to do, and will of course make you aware of any developments as and when.

Kind Regards,
Jack

Jack Bacon
Assistant Democratic Services Officer
West Sussex County Council, Room 102, County Hall, Chichester, PO19 1RQ
Phone: 033 022 25075
Email: jack.bacon@westsussex.gov.uk | Web: www.westsussex.gov.uk

From: Richard Burrett <richard.burrett@westsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 February 2023 14:12
To: Jack Bacon <Jack.Bacon@westsussex.gov.uk>
Cc: Karen Hammond <karenhammond2018@gmail.com>; Katherine Delamora <katherine.delamora@westsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: SACRE - request from Church of Scientology

Jack,

Thanks for letting me know about this.

As it happens, I had rather been expecting something of this nature to happen, and was going to speak to Karen about it next time we see each other. I see that [REDACTION NOTE – reference to the person representing the Church of Scientology who made the original approach to Jack Bacon] request is dated 24 January. On the evening of Saturday 28 January I attended the Crawley Mayor's Civic Ball, and while I was there a man who I think was probably [REDACTION NOTE – reference to the person representing the Church of Scientology who made the original approach to Jack Bacon] approached me to say that he was a representative of the Church of Scientology (who are based in East Grinstead) and that another councillor he had been speaking to that evening had told him that I was the Chairman of the West Sussex SACRE. He told me that he was keen to become a member of SACRE and asked what the process was. I explained that decisions on which groups could or could not have representation on SACRE were laid down in the relevant legislation, and that he would need to contact the County Council to make a formal application for membership, which he said that he would do, but having seen the date of his e-mail below it appears that he had already written to you at the point at which he spoke to me.

In light of this, I agree that you need to ask him to submit his case in writing, and that can then be considered by Nigel Jupp, with appropriate advice from officers, in the normal way.

I hope this helps. Please keep me informed as to any further developments on this.

Best regards,

Richard.

From: Jack Bacon <Jack.Bacon@westsussex.gov.uk>

Sent: 14 February 2023 16:14

To: Richard Burrett <richard.burrett@westsussex.gov.uk>

Cc: Karen Hammond <karenhammond2018@gmail.com>; Katherine Delamora <katherine.delamora@westsussex.gov.uk>

Subject: SACRE - request from Church of Scientology

Hi Richard,

Sorry for the time taken to make you aware of [REDACTION NOTE – reference to the person representing the Church of Scientology who made the original approach to Jack Bacon] request (see email below) to become a member of SACRE, but we've had to seek advice from Tony Kershaw.

Tony has advised that it is not a matter for SACRE to consider, and therefore does not need to be referred to in the forthcoming meeting, but instead the request will need to be presented to the relevant Cabinet Member, Cllr Nigel Jupp, for his consideration.

Tony has outlined the following process:

"The contact from the Church of Scientology should be invited to make the request formal by explaining the governance of the organisation – where authority sits for taking decisions about how the Church should be represented through other organisations and confirmation of how this nomination has arisen – i.e. to confirm that this is a formal request from the body itself."

"The request should then be supported by information about the place and role the church has in the community of West Sussex and its role in particular with regard to education and young people in the area.

"Finally it should be invited to explain its reasons for seeking membership of SACRE."

Once [REDACTION NOTE – reference to the person representing the Church of Scientology who made the original approach to Jack Bacon] request has been formalised and supported with evidence, we would then look to Karen for advice on the proposal.

Do you welcome me to invite [REDACTION NOTE – reference to the person representing the Church of Scientology who made the original approach to Jack Bacon] to submit his case in writing?

Many thanks, Jack

The text below provides some guidance on how the request is considered, taken from the recent report on appointments:

All appointments to SACRE should be dependent on the local authority's opinion as to whether such a representative would help ensure that the relevant traditions in the local authority's area are appropriately reflected in Committee A. As set out below this should not be confined to organised faith-based groups but other recognised belief systems with an identifiable level of adherence or membership within the local community such as to make the group relevant for the work of SACRE.

It is not the practice to consult SACRE members on the nominations by other bodies seeking representation as the responsibility for such appointments falls to the County Council but officer advice will be sought to assist in providing context for the request in terms of the role and responsibilities of SACRE. An Ofsted report recently produced on the teaching of RE includes a consistent referral to both religious and non-religious views and traditions. For example, 'Ideally, pupils will build 'personal knowledge' through rich substantive content that links the 'life world' of religious and non-religious traditions to the developing 'life world' of pupils' or, when discussing the importance of the three types of knowledge pupils need in RE, 'first, 'substantive' knowledge: knowledge about various religious and non-religious traditions; second, 'ways of knowing': pupils learn 'how to know' about religion and non-religion; third, 'personal knowledge': pupils build an awareness of their own presuppositions and values about the religious and non-religious traditions they study'.

In relation to the wider legal considerations which the County Council will take into account, in discharging its educational functions the Council owes parents and pupils, a positive duty to respect their religious and philosophical convictions having regard among other things to local conditions and, in particular, the preponderance in its area of particular religious views, and their place in the tradition of the country. It may legitimately give priority to the imparting of knowledge of one religion above others, where that religion is practised or adhered to by a majority in society but it also has a duty to take care that information or knowledge included in the curriculum is conveyed in a pluralistic manner and must accord equal respect to different religious convictions, and to non-

religious beliefs and must avoid discrimination between religions and beliefs, discharging its duties from a standpoint of neutrality and impartiality.

Human Rights legislation and the provisions which it incorporates do not distinguish between faith-based and other recognised belief systems in terms of the rights afforded and the duty to uphold and protect them. Article 9 ECHR states that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes the freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance. Associated case law confirms that non-religious and religious belief systems should be treated the same.

Jack Bacon

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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@churchofscientology.net>

Sent: 24 January 2023 17:39

To: Jack Bacon <Jack.Bacon@westsussex.gov.uk>

Subject: WEST SUSSEX SACRE

****EXTERNAL****

Dear Jack,

I would like to apply to become a member of the West Sussex Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education and I found your email address on the website.

West Sussex has the largest concentration of members of our religion in the country, and a proportionate number of children in local schools.

Please could you advise me on the process for becoming a member of the Advisory Council.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Church of Scientology
Saint Hill Manor
East Grinstead
West Sussex
RH19 4JY

[REDACTED] [@churchofscientology.net](mailto:[REDACTED]@churchofscientology.net)

www.scientology.org.uk

www.scientology.tv

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