

FACT SHEET FOR COUNCILLORS

SCIENTOLOGY SAFE POINTING

The Church of Scientology's UK headquarters is located at Saint Hill Manor, East Grinstead. This fact sheet is intended to brief East Grinstead Town Councillors on Scientology's policies that dictate how they must interact and engage with local officials. The policies quoted on this fact sheet are widely available online, and in Scientology's published works.

A key principle in Scientology is that the words of its founder, L. Ron Hubbard cannot be changed, and must be applied exactly as they were written. This means that although he died in 1986, the church's operating procedures remain unchanged and the organisation's staff members and parishioners are duty and faith-bound to continue to apply his writings as they were first published.

THE SEA ORGANISATION

- Saint Hill is staffed solely and exclusively by members of the 'Sea Organisation'. These staff members have signed one billion year contracts dedicating not just this life, but future lives to working for the church.
- In return, they are provided communal berthing in Crowborough (Walsh Manor), food and a weekly stipend of £50. They are transported to and from Saint Hill by private bus, with the work day typically lasting from 9am until 10pm, seven days a week.

THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL AFFAIRS

- Scientology's relationship with local officials, law enforcement and the press is controlled by what's known as the Office of Special Affairs (OSA). This department was set up following the closure of its predecessor, the Guardian's Office - which was implicated in the largest infiltration of the US government in its history.
- Known as 'Operation Snow White', several senior Scientology executives were imprisoned after it was found the church had placed thousands of covert agents throughout the government tasked with gathering intelligence and destroy any documents that were critical of Scientology. This operation was orchestrated by Sea Org staff, some of whom were based at Saint Hill. (Case ref: United States v. Mary Sue Hubbard et al., 493 F.Supp. 209; D.D.C. 1979)

SAFE POINTING

Within Scientology, it is generally frowned upon to establish any form of relationship with elected officials as this falls under the duty of OSA. This means that as Councillors, you are likely to only ever see or meet Scientology officials whose sole job is to 'Safe Point' the Council.

By building relationships with political figures and opinion leaders, Scientology creates a 'safe point' - which can be relied upon to carry out Scientology's intentions. This is not done in an overt way, but rather with a soft-power approach at bringing Councillors under their control.

In a policy letter titled 'The Safe Point', L. Ron Hubbard writes: "The most important action to undertake when going about making a safe point is to **carefully and painstakingly find out who exactly are the top dogs in the area in financial and political circles**, and their associates and connections, and to what each one is hostile. [...] **Viability depends on having all areas and persons who could affect or influence the operation under PR control.**"

EVENTS

Saint Hill often host charity and community events under the guise of 'being a good neighbour'. However, it is important to note these activities are solely a PR exercise, and used to forward the organisation's aims to infiltrate the local area. This is carried out under a policy titled 'Public Image', which states: "You can and must ally with *real* humanitarian and civil-rights groups (getting press coverage for every such contact)."

THE SPECIAL ZONE PLAN

Safe pointing is conducted under what is known as the ‘Special Zone Plan’, which consists of several policy letters. Here are some excerpts that are important for Councillors to understand, so as to provide context as to why they may receive invitations to events at Saint Hill:

“No government bum ever acts on his own initiative: Governments today are simply like prostitutes — **they are used**”

- HCO PL ‘Intelligence Filing’, 21 July 1973

“A nation or a state runs on the ability of its department heads, its governors or any other leaders. It is easy to get posts in such areas [...] **Don’t bother to get elected. Get a job on the secretarial staff or the bodyguard.** [...] The cue in all this is **don’t seek the cooperation of groups. Don’t ask for permission. Just enter them and start functioning.**”

- HCO PL ‘The Special Zone Plan’, 23 June 1960

“The goal of the department is to **bring the government** and hostile philosophies or societies **into a state of complete compliance with the goals of Scientology.** This is done by high level ability to control and in its absence, by low level ability to overwhelm”

- HCO PL ‘Department of Government Affairs’, 15 August 1960

****NOTE - The ‘Department of Government Affairs’ was later renamed the ‘Department of Official Affairs’, which has the objective of creating a “pro-Scientology government of the area”****

“The action of **bringing about a pro-Scientology government** consists of **making a friend of the most highly placed government person one can reach**, even placing Scientologists in domestic and clerical posts close to him and seeing to it that Scientology resolves his troubles and case.”

- HCO PL ‘Department of Official Affairs’, 13 March 1961

“**You can and must approach governors, parliamentary committees, big names**, big activities and get press coverage for every contact.”

- HCO PL ‘Public Image’, 3 February 1969

CONTEXT

Scientology’s objective in inviting the Mayor and Councillors to events at Saint Hill is not to help the local community, but to establish the Council as a ‘Safe Point’, with the ultimate goal of bringing it into a state of “complete compliance” with Scientology’s aims.

In 1971 the government’s Foster Report raised serious concerns about Scientology, concluding: **“The Government are satisfied, having reviewed all the available evidence, that Scientology is socially harmful.** It alienates members of families from each other and attributes squalid and disgraceful motives to all who oppose it; its authoritarian principles and practice are a potential menace to the personality and well-being of those so deluded as to become its followers ; above all, its methods can be a serious danger to the health of those who submit to them. There is evidence that children are now being indoctrinated.”

Scientology was rejected charity status in the United Kingdom in 1999 after the Charity Commission ruled it “does not benefit the public”. Since then, its properties have been designated places of public worship, but they are not a charity.

FURTHER READING

I would be more than happy to suggest books and resources Councillors may find helpful if they wish to do further reading.