



Reference Lab. 99 34/64/42/A .

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From:  
Sent: 06 October 2000 11:00  
To:  
Cc:

Subject: RE: scientoioqrsts -Reply

As I mentioned, I have spoken to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ about how we should handle the Hodgkin & Co letter to Barbara Roche - assuming it will eventually filter down to INPD for advice. For the benefit of copy recipients who have not seen the letter, sols acting for the Church of Scientology are seeking a meeting with Ministers to put their case that the Immigration guidance that advises that leaders in the Scientology movement do not qualify as Ministers of Religion for the purposes of the Immigration Rules. contravenes the HRA.

\_\_\_\_\_ - we have also taken account of the Charity Commissioners decision not to grant charitable status to the organisation on the grounds that it acts against the public interest - we are aware that this is being challenged.

The Derby research to which the SCientologists refer in earlier press reports was commissioned by REU in order to assess the current scale and nature of religious discrimination but primarily in the context of the extent to which it overlaps with racial discrimination.

-----Original Message---

From:  
Sent: 02 October 2000 11:54  
To:  
Subject: FW: scientotoqists -Reply

Looks as though \_\_\_\_\_ is dealing with this. I copied my fax request to him.

-----Oriainal Message---

From:  
Sent: 02 October 2000 10:18  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: FW: scientoioqists -Reply

-----Original Message--

From:  
Sent: 02 October 2000 10:00  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: scientologists -Reply

About six weeks ago the Scientologists solicitor phoned me and said when could they expect a reply to their letter of 8 June, asking where HMPS had got to. I said in about six weeks. So we will get on with it.

29/September/2000 05:58pm >>>



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From:  
Sent: 22 Novernbar 1999 16:01  
To:  
Subject: FW: SCIENTOLOGISTS: THE NEXT STEPS

Just to keep you informed of your clients views

~~-Original Message-~~

From:  
Sent: 22 Novemoer 1999 15:36  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: SCIENTOLOGISTS: THE NEXT STEPS

Please see note from Jated 22 November.

ScienIO  
logist.-Ne ...

From:

cc:

Apollo House

Tel:

Fax:

22 November 1999

## **SCIENTOLOGISTS: THE NEXT STEPS**

Thank you for your note of 18 November to me and I am replying on behalf.

discussed it with

2.

3.

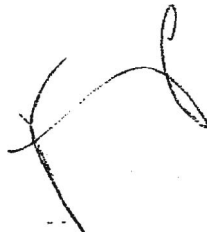
4. We look forward to receiving the fuller account of the meeting with the Scientologists in due course.

cc:

Tel:  
Fax:

-.

10 November 1999

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

· **SCIENTOLOGY**

Thank you for your note of 4 November confirming the details of the pre-meeting. I regret that I am unexpectedly being called out of the office this afternoon and will not now be able to attend, However, I hope the attached note provides a helpful summary of INO's position hitherto.

## SCIENTOLOGY

16 July 1980: The then Home Secretary lifts general ban on Scientologists in terms that they will in future be admitted to the UK when they satisfy the immigration authorities in accordance with the Immigration Rules applicable to their individual circumstances. But states that persons connected with Scientology will not qualify under the Ministers of Religion/Missionary heads of the Rules.

This latter restriction was based on the premise that to accept in these categories would be to accept that scientology was a religion. The HO does not regard it as a religion for the purposes of Immigration Rules. This policy is based on the 1970 Court of Appeal decision. This upheld a refusal by the Registrar General to grant a certificate that a Scientology Chapel was a place of religious worship within the meaning of the Places of Worship Registration Act 1855. This is because the ceremonies carried out in the building were focused not on prayer to a Supreme Being, but on instruction in a philosophy concerned with man.

### The Immigration Rules

Paragraph 169 et seq of the Immigration Rules define Ministers of Religion, missionaries and members of religious orders in terms of the duties or activities they perform. There is no working definition of what constitutes a religion for the purposes of the Rules.






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From:  
Sent: 05 November 1999 15:38  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: RE: scientology

is in Liverpool today but or I will get back to you next week. has *made* it clear we will not be able to attend the meeting with the Scientologists because of our other work pressures. But I have said I would attend the pre-meeting with officials this coming Wednesday, simply to rehearse our position hitherto in relation to Ministers of Religion.

~~Original Message~~

From:  
Sent: 05 November 1999 15:08  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: FW: scientology



grateful for an opportunity to discuss this. I have been looking at the material supplied by the Scientologists. I take it one or both of you are attending the meeting

~~Original Message~~

From:  
Sent: 04 November 1999 15:38  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: scientology

I have today received a letter from Hodkin and Co that I am faxing through to you (I assume you are on ). It proposes to bring 6 people on behalf of the church of scientology to the meeting on 16th November. It also asks if there are any questions in relation to the materials they have sent us we would like to ask them in advance on them, so that they can bring any additional material that may be needed. And if there are any other points I/we may wish to bring up at the meeting so that they can prepare on them.

I suggest we agree who is to reply, and in what terms, at the pre-meeting on 10th November in Cleland House.

- I do not know the immigration position - it would be desirable if someone came to these meetings from INO (or LAB who advises them) - do we know who yet? In any event, can you pass on a copy of the letter to whoever is dealing in INO?

Separately. I gather that there are no meeting rooms for 16/11 available in QAG on that date and even my (magnificent) new room cannot really house the numbers proposed. Have you a meeting room in Cleland/Abell House that can be used, or can one be found elsewhere? (I cannot seem to e-mail on this - could you tell ).

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From:  
Sent: 05 November 1999 16:37  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: FW: scientology

I forgot to add that you may wish to dig out your copy of note dated 8 October

~~Original Message~~

From:  
Sent: 05 November 1999 16:07  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: RE: scientology

As I understand it, scientologists can be admitted to the UK where they meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules applicable to their circumstances e.g. as visitors, work permit holders etc. But they cannot qualify for entry clearance as ministers of religion, missionaries or members of religious orders. I will separately forward to you an earlier e-mail I sent to , which says a bit more about the background to our position.

~~Original Message~~

From:  
Sent: 05 November 1999 15:52  
To:  
Subject: RE: scientology

Would it make sense for one of us to attend the pre-meeting at any rate? How do we treat Scientologists at the moment - apart from not treating their leaders as ministers of religion?



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**From:**  
**Sent:** 05 November 1999 16:09  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** FW: Church of Scientology

As promised in my email reply .See below.

-Original Message-----

**From:**  
**Sent:** 05 November 1999 16:09  
**To:**  
**Subject:** RE: Church of Scientology



yes, the position has been set out in writing before. I agree with you that we should wait to see what comes out of the meeting. As [redacted] says, we will/look at any immigration issues that arise out of it.

-Original Message-----

**From:**  
**Sent:** 02 November 1999 14:29  
**To:**  
**Subject:** RE: Church of Scientology

Thanks, I have just seen: [redacted] note to

Have we set out our position in writing to the Church of Scientology before? Paul Boateng's office have suggested that as IND are unable to attend the meeting it would be useful for a letter to go out beforehand. I think this would only be sensible if we have not written before but if we have I think we should wait to see what comes out of the meeting.

Grateful if you could advise.

-Original Message-----

**From:**  
**Sent:** 02 November 1999 11:03  
**To:**  
**Subject:** rev: Church of Scientology

Further to yesterday's message, I was mistaken about my attendance at the meeting. [redacted] has told [redacted] that it is unlikely we can attend because of current pressures.

-----Original Message-----

**From:**  
**Sent:** 01 November 1999 13:10  
**To:**  
**Subject:** RE: Church of Scientology

..if this is the meeting on 16 November that officials are having with them, I will be attending in [redacted] absence. You asked for some background on the position of scientologists under the Immigration Rules. The policy is as set out by the then Home Secretary in 1980. Scientology is not regarded as a religion for the purposes of the Immigration Rules. Scientologists will not therefore qualify under the provisions of the Immigration Rules relating to Ministers of Religion, missionaries or members of religious orders. There is no legal or official definition of a religion in this country. But Scientology is not regarded as a church in Britain. This follows a ruling in 1969/70 by the Court of Appeal that Scientology "chapels" did not qualify as places of worship under the Places of Worship Registration Act because the ceremonies carried on in the building were focussed not on prayer to a Supreme Being, but on instruction in a philosophy concerned with man. From this has flowed the Home Office's general line that we do not regard Scientology as a religion. I hope this is helpful. Please let me know if you require anything further.

-Original Message-----

**From:**  
**Sent:** 01 November 1999 09:40  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Church of Scientology

Many thanks.



HOME OFFICE  
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE  
LONDON SW1H 9AT

Hodkin and Company  
A2-44 Copthorne Road,  
Felbridge,  
East Grinstead,  
West Sussex, RH 19 2NS.

10-99

Dear .

Re: Church of Scientology

I refer to your letter of 30 July seeking access to Home Office files on your client. We have spoken several times since the letter was sent. I am however sorry for the delay in sending a substantive response.

The Home Office is happy to disclose information in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (not "files") concerning its policies. However, at present it is not clear to me what specific information you are seeking. I would be happy to consider your request further, if you could be more specific.

At your meeting with Lord Williams, you argued that Scientology should be treated as a religion by the Prison Service for the purposes of the Prisons legislation. You were also concerned that your ministers should be regarded as such for immigration purposes.

As discussed by phone, these issues may best be considered initially at official level. In relation to the Prison Service, it would be sensible if you directed your request to Head of Prisoner Administration, Prisoner Administration Group, . . .

