



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

To all Trustees of The Dean and Chapter
of the Cathedral Church of Christ in Oxford
of the Foundation of King Henry VIII

By email only

Charity Commission
PO Box 211
Bootle
L20 7YX

Phone: 0300 066 9197

Your ref:

Our ref: HE / C-491278 / 1143423 / RC

Date: 27 January 2021

Dear Trustee,

The Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Christ in Oxford of the Foundation of King Henry VIII (Charity Number 1143423)

We are writing to all members of the Governing Body in their capacity as trustees of the above foundation which was registered as a charity in August 2011.

As you will know, we are the regulator for charities in England and Wales. Our statutory objectives under the Charities Act 2011 include:

- increasing public trust and confidence in charities
- promoting the effective use of charitable resources
- enhancing the accountability of charities to donors, beneficiaries and the general public
- ensuring charity trustees comply with the legal obligations in exercising control and management of the administration of their charities.

Further to the earlier stages of our regulatory engagement with the charity, we have concerns about the prudent application of charitable funds and the proper process of decision making within the charity as the dispute involving the Dean continues. We understand from your legal adviser that members of the Governing Body have now agreed to establish a second Tribunal to examine the conduct of the Dean.

We have determined that it is appropriate in these circumstances to:

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t: 0300 066 9197 (General enquiries)
0300 066 9219 (Textphone)

w: www.gov.uk/charity-commission

- contact each member of the Governing Body in their capacity as charity trustees about their responsibilities and duties for the management and administration of the charity; and
- advise each member of the Governing Body of the actions we are taking to verify that they have acted in accordance with their responsibilities and duties as charity trustees and complied with our published and regulatory guidance.

To begin with, we will be seeking further information and assurances from the members of the Governing Body about why establishing a Tribunal is:

- in the best interests of the charity and its beneficiaries.
- a responsible use of the charity's resources.

We will also examine how, when reaching this decision, the members of the Governing Body:

- took account of our published guidance and previous regulatory advice; and
- identified and managed any conflicts of interest and / or loyalty.

This is not an exhaustive list. Full details of the information and assurances we require will be set out in a separate letter to the charity's registered main contact.

We acknowledge that the Governing Body may have sought professional advice about these matters. That does not relieve them, as trustees, of their responsibilities – collectively and individually – for the management and administration of the charity, although that will be considered accordingly. For that reason, we may want to discuss these matters with individual trustees directly.

We look forward to assessing the charity's response to our request for further information about the decision to establish a second Tribunal and related matters.

We do not require individual trustees to reply to this letter.

Yours faithfully,



Helen Earner
Director of Regulatory Services