

Christ Church

OXFORD OX1 1DP

Our Ref: JL/SG

6 April 2021

Alán Fox Esq & Charles Kingsley Evans Esq

By email only: request-660690-73e9724a@whatdotheyknow.com & ckingsleyevans@gmail.com

Dear Sirs,

Further to your FOI request dated 27 April 2020, the passage of time has given cause for Christ Church to reconsider the way it handled your requests and now provides the following response:

Request [a] What is the amount of money spent by Christ Church on the action against the Dean, including legal fees, tribunal costs, expert advice (legal and otherwise), Public Relations expenditure and any other related spend.

Response [a] £1,187,445.11

And

Request [b] How was this expenditure authorised? Please provide minutes of meetings referring to this expenditure.

Response [b] Christ Church sets out below the extracts of the relevant minutes and associated information that sets out how the expenditure was authorised. (N.B. It should not be assumed that the Christ Church officers named in the extracts below are those currently in post.)

Minutes - 10.10.18

The Senior ex-Censor expressed a need to make clear who was to act on behalf of Governing Body in the processes which would follow from their recent decisions, particularly those matters which were not defined by the Statutes.

and

The Censor Theologiae took up the point made earlier by the Senior ex-Censor about the need to make clear who was to act on behalf of Governing Body in the processes which would follow from their recent decisions. She proposed that, for matters relating to the process of Statute XXXI (until the Tribunal was appointed with its own separate line of advice and instruction, and except on matters that had to be done personally under the Statute), authority should be held by the Senior ex-Censor and the Censor Theologiae with power to involve and delegate to the Treasurer and/or the Senior Censor.

James Lawrie, *Treasurer*

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Registered Charity No: 1143423

Notes of the Junior Censor in relation to the above meeting:

By way of aside, I should say that, going forward, we need to make clear who is to act on behalf of Governing Body in the various processes which follow from these recent decisions of Governing Body,

Authority to act (and to instruct college lawyers)

For matters relating to the process of Statute XXXIX (until the Tribunal is appointed with its own separate line of advice and instruction): the Senior ex-Censor and the Censor Theologiae and (except on matters that have to be done personally under the Statute) with power to involve and delegate to the Treasurer and/or the Senior Censor.

Minutes - 17.10.18

Relating to the instruction of Penningtons Manches Cooper:

- (iii) that Penningtons Manches be appointed to formulate the charge or charges arising from the Complaint, and to present, or arrange for the presentation of, the charges before the Tribunal.

Minutes - 23.01.19

Subsequent to the submission of the Complaint and the decision to establish an independent tribunal, Governing Body had delegated giving instructions on the Complaint and the independent tribunal to four (now three) named officers: the Treasurer, the Senior Censor, the Senior Ex-Censor and the Censor Theologiae.

Governing Body and Chapter had also been asked whether they wished the hearing to take place in Oxford, or London. It was felt by the House's lawyers that London might be more cost-effective, and would allow the business of the House to continue as normal.

And

The Censor Theologiae asked Governing Body to vote on whether they endorsed a decision for the Tribunal to take place in London:

There were 38 votes in favour.

There were 0 votes against.

Minutes – 25.09.19

(c) Costs

The Treasurer distributed a paper on Costs, copies of which were numbered and were to be returned to him at the end of the Meeting, and not discussed with anyone outside the room. It was agreed that members of Governing Body not present at the Meeting could make an appointment with the Treasurer to see the paper.

Relevant extracts from the paper presented by the Treasurer on 25.09.19

Guiding principles

- Obtaining the best quality of advice to protect the House and the Trustees
- Ensuring wherever possible that value for money was obtained
- Pursuing settlement at every possible opportunity

Cost review

- The College Officers deputed to manage the process kept the costs under close review

Yours sincerely,

