

Our Ref: [REDACTED]

Date: 14 April 2011

Church Of Scientology Religious Education College Inc
F.A.O. Mr. [REDACTED]
Winston Churchill House, 2nd Floor
8 Ethel Street
B2 4BG

Dear Sir/Madam

Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief
Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988
Re: 2nd Floor, Winston Churchill House, 8 Ethel Street, Birmingham, B2 4BG

Thank you for your application for Discretionary Rate Relief in accordance with Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

In accordance with the policy agreed by Cabinet in December 2010 I must advise that that your organisation is not entitled to Discretionary Rate Relief from 1 April 2011. This is because your accounts have indicated that there are available funds to discharge your Business Rates.

This is reflected in your enclosed 2011/12 Business Rates bill

You may still qualify for 80% Mandatory Relief if you apply to become a registered charity. Information on becoming a registered charity can be found at <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/>.

Once you become a registered charity, simply call us on 0121 303 5509 and we will send you an application form for Mandatory Rate Relief. If successful you will receive your 80% relief from your date of registration as a charity.

The City Council's new policy, including details on how to appeal against this decision, can be viewed on the council's website under the section for Business Rates at <http://birmingham.gov.uk/business-rates> then select 'Charities and other non-profit organisations'.

Yours faithfully

Chris Gibbs
Assistant Director Revenues and Benefits

SCANNING/INDEXING

APPLICATION FOR DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF

(where applicable please complete all white boxes, continue on a separate sheet where necessary and tick all grey boxes)

1. Year for which Discretionary Rate Relief is sought:

1 st April	2011	31 st March	2014
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2. Is your organisation a registered charity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
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3. If yes please give registered charity number:	<input type="text"/>
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4. Name and address of your organisation (please confirm that this is the address for all correspondence)

Church of Scientology of Birmingham, Winston Churchill House, 8 Ethel Street, Birmingham B2 4BG

5. Contact name:	<input type="text"/>
Daytime telephone number:	0121 643 8894

6. Address of rated property for which claim is being made:

Church of Scientology of Birmingham, 2nd Floor, Winston Churchill House, 8 Ethel Street, Birmingham B2 4BG
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7. I apply for relief on behalf of the above organisation for the property named in 4. above on the grounds that the property is used:
(Please tick which box is appropriate)

Wholly or mainly for charitable purposes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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For the purposes of a club, society or other organisation not established or conducted for profit and is wholly or mainly used for purposes of recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
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For the purposes of an institution or organisation not established or conducted for profit and whose main objects are charitable or are otherwise :-	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Philanthropic✓	Religious✓	Concerned with education✓	Social welfare✓
Science	Literature	Fine Arts	

8. Briefly, what are the main objects of the organisation?

Benefiting the public at large particularly through the furtherance of the doctrines and Creed of the religion of Scientology

9. What use is made of the property?

As a Church, as a place of worship and religious instruction and as a centre for societal betterment activities

10. Equal Opportunities

- Please submit your organisation's Equal Opportunities Policy.
- If you do not have a formal policy please submit evidence that you act in a non-discriminatory way (*e.g. analysis of membership or users of service; action taken to address needs of ethnic minorities, women, people with disabilities, if appropriate*)

The Church is dedicated to Human Rights for all and committed to non-discrimination. A copy of the Creed of the Church is attached (Tab 1) together with a copy the Scientology Prayer for Total Freedom (Tab 2). On our official website we state:

"The Scientology ministry is open to men and women. Because people are spiritual beings, gender of a minister is not an issue in Scientology. Scientology is a meritocracy. There are no "glass ceiling" limitations based on race, gender, ethnicity or similar criteria for individuals who serve as ministers or as executives in the Church's ecclesiastical management. As in any religion, its ministry must be composed of the most dedicated and ethical members. Thus, a high ethics level and morality are the most important qualifications for a Scientology minister."

11. Open access

- Please submit your constitution, Memorandum of Association or Rules and any other evidence you wish to help meet this criterion.
- Please give details of your membership fees in the box below:

Church of Scientology of Birmingham is a branch of Church of Scientology Religious Education College Inc (A charity registered as an incorporated association in South Australia). A copy of the constitution is attached (Tab 3). Membership is open to anyone who wants to participate in religious services

or train as Scientology minister. There is no membership fee. The work of our organisation is funded by donations requested for certain services, but most help is provided free of donation and it is not necessary to be a member to receive help.

12. Beneficiaries of services and facilities

- In what way does your organisation benefit Birmingham residents:

The Church of Scientology of Birmingham benefits Birmingham residents in a large number of different ways, both directly and indirectly. It provides the conventional services of a church - Sunday services, spiritual and moral guidance, religious counselling and instruction. This is part and parcel of the whole object and purpose of the Church, which is to help people, and to train and educate people to help others. The Church is staffed by dedicated volunteers who serve out of religious conviction rather than for financial reward, and all Scientologists and non-Scientologists who come into contact with the Church are also encouraged to help others.

The stated aim of the Scientology religion is to help create "a civilization without insanity, without criminals and without war; where the able can prosper and honest beings can have rights, and where man is free to rise to greater heights".(Tab 4)

The Church sets about achieving this aim in 3 principle ways:

1. By helping people realise that they are spiritual beings, and that the secret of advancing spiritually includes being honest and decent and helping others.
2. By providing practical tools (such as communication or organisation or study skills) to provide real help to others; and
3. By organising and encouraging people to provide help to others.

The Church provides many different counselling services and training courses - designed not only to raise people spiritually and morally, but also practically deal with a wide range of difficulties and challenges one encounters in life, and how to help others deal with those difficulties and challenges.

Services to help individuals, families and children include the following courses:

How to Achieve Self-Confidence Course
How to Get Motivated Course
Effective Time Management Course
Overcoming Financial Stress Course
Creating a Successful Marriage Course
Successfully Raising Children Course
Success Through Communication Course
The Children's Communication Course
Grammar and Communication for Children
Learning How to Learn

Study Skills for Life
How to Use a Dictionary Course
The Key to Life Course
Life Orientation Course
The Way to Happiness Course

Training courses for Volunteer Ministers (which can be taken by anyone in the Church, or free online) include the following:

Answers to Drugs Course
Assists for illness and injury Course
Basics of Organising Course
Communication Course
The Dynamics Course
The Tone Scale Course
Ethics and Conditions Course
How to Resolve Conflicts Course
Integrity and Honesty Course
Marriage Course
Solutions for a Dangerous Environment Course
Targets and Goals Course
The Technology of Study Course
Tools for the Work Place Course

For people interested in becoming Scientology Ministers, we provide extensive ministerial training courses. We also train anyone who wants to be a Scientology or Dianetics Counsellor (In Scientology known as an "auditor", for the latin *audire* meaning 'one who listens'), and arrange the ministering of such counselling at different levels.

You are welcome to come to the Church and see for yourself all of these services.

But receiving such services and courses is only the first stage, what is important is what people then do to put into practice what they have learnt to help others in the community. Among the current activities organised by our volunteers is a Saturday morning study club for children in the local community, community workshops in the Way to Happiness (a common-sense moral code) , the Youth for Human Rights programme (encouraging young people to know and protect their own human rights and those of others), Criminon volunteering (providing correspondence courses (accredited by the Open College Network) to serving prisoners to help them rehabilitate), Narconon drug education lectures and distributing Truth about Drugs booklets in the community. We take on community projects that local residents want handled - such as cleaning up an alley in Moseley that is frequented by drug users and gets over grown.

We organise Volunteer Ministers (and any one can be a Volunteer Minister and be trained for free on the basic Scientology principles to help people found in The Scientology Handbook) to help others in all manner of situations

- from helping an elderly neighbour to helping in large scale disaster relief. People from Birmingham went over to help when the tsunami struck in South-East Asia, and with other natural disasters around the world. Closer to home our Volunteer Ministers helped dozens of people in Moseley and Sparkhill after the tornado; clearing debris, clearing streets and gardens and damaged properties. After the Lozells riots we went to the neighbourhood handing out The Way to Happiness booklets and comforting local people. This was very well received. We also delivered workshops on Human Rights and Drug prevention in the area. The motto of Scientology Volunteer Ministers is "Something can be done about it".

20,000 Birmingham area residents receive the Church of Scientology of Birmingham free magazine several times a year.

In various ways therefore thousands of Birmingham residents benefit directly from the work of our organisation each year. (Attached are a few photographs showing some of our activity (Tab 5)

As a small snapshot of the benefits people get we asked a few people who were in contact with the Church one day last week to write down a few examples of how they had been practically helped or have helped others as a result of the work of our organisation (See attachment Tab 6). You are welcome to come and see the original testimonials, and many others which we have at the Church.

- How many people benefit from the work of your organisation?
 1. In total
 2. In Birmingham

Tens of thousands of people benefit from the work of our organisation, and the vast majority are in the Birmingham area. It is difficult to be precise on numbers - when one gives someone a drug prevention or human rights booklet how many people then benefit from reading this, do not commit or become the victim of drug crime, or treat others more decently? We handed out 5,510 such booklets in the Birmingham area last year (Samples of some of the booklets we distribute are attached (Tab 7)). We also provided direct services to 2,700 people - courses and counselling as described above. We sent our magazine to 28,000 people who have at some time received direct help from us, 20,000 of whom are in the Birmingham area. Many of those helped directly will have helped others as a result.

13. Is the organisation assisted directly or indirectly, financially or in any other way by the City Council? (including any mandatory or discretionary relief)	YES	
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14. If YES please give details for the last 12 months (including amounts and dates)

We have been granted discretionary rates relief for a number of years. In 2009-10 this amounted to £19,982.00 and in 2010-11 this amounted to

£18,929.33

15. Please supply your latest Annual Audited Accounts, or a statement of your financial position for the last 2 financial years.

Copy of Financial Statement for Church of Scientology of Birmingham
with 2 years of figures attached. (Tab 8)

16. Does the organisation receive any external funding from any other external source?		NO
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- If YES please give details

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16. Is the organisation locally or nationally affiliated?	YES	
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- If YES please give brief details

The Church of Scientology of Birmingham is one of a number of Scientology Churches in England. It provides support to national charities, which also utilise the teachings of the founder of Scientology, Mr L. Ron Hubbard. This includes the drug rehabilitation and education charity, Narconon, and the criminal rehabilitation charity, Criminon, and other groups - Youth for Human Rights (which works to educate young people on Human Rights), Say No to Drugs (which works to educate people on the dangers of abusing drugs) and the Way to Happiness Foundation (which works to instill moral values into society).

17. If your organisation is a sports club are any members paid to participate?		NO
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- If YES please give details below:

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18. To what extent do the activities of your organisation contribute to a local or regional community strategy, including any Birmingham City Council plans?

Virtually all of our activities contribute to local or regional strategies and Birmingham City Plans. For example, considering the Sustainable Community Strategy described in 2026 Birmingham:

1. Succeed Economically - we have a range of services which directly help people in their working life, from teaching basic learning and study and communication skills to both children and adults - to direct organising skills applicable in the work place.

2. Stay safe in a clean, green city - some of our work specifically targets criminal behaviour, for example providing rehabilitation courses directly to prisoners. Our anti-drug work reduces drug crime. Other programmes encourage moral behaviour, for examples our Way to Happiness booklet distribution and workshops. We work directly on clean up projects.

3. Be healthy - many of our services are credited with relieving stress and helping people recover faster from illness and injury.
 4. Enjoy a high quality of life - our services are all about trying to improve the quality of life for all.
 5. Make a Contribution - everyone who comes into contact with the Church is encouraged to make a contribution to improve the lives of others, and we train people to make an effective contribution. We also work directly to promote tolerance and non-discrimination and create a cohesive city.

19. Has your organisation applied for and been refused discretionary rate relief from Birmingham City Council previously?		NO
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- If YES please state reasons given and date of refusal:

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The information given above is correct to the best of my knowledge at the time of submitting this application.

Signature:	
Position in organisation:	
Date:	31 January 2011

When completed this form should be sent to:

Birmingham City Council
 Revenues and Benefits
 PO Box No.5
 Birmingham
 B4 7AP

Please check that: -

- *You have answered all of the questions appropriate to your application*
- *You have enclosed copies of all documents requested*
- *You have enclosed copies of any other documents to support the statements made in the application*
- *You have signed and dated the application form*