



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

By email only: request-640895-96f354ab@whatdotheyknow.com

Charity Commission
PO Box 211
Bootle
L20 7YX

Your ref:
Our ref: C-514172

Date: 2 March 2020

Dear Ms Reid

Freedom of Information: The Leeds Schools' Sports Association

Thank you for your request for information which has been managed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

Please note I have separated out and responded to each request you have made for your ease of reference.

You have asked the Commission:

I have examined the documents you have provided and noted, that they make no reference to one particular site I am interested in, this of course, may be due to them all being withheld for reasons you have explained.

*".....*In light of this are you able to confirm that LSSA are the owners of some land and half of the football pitch sited at Oldfield Lane, Leeds, West Yorkshire?*

The Commission is precluded from determining title to land by virtue of section 70 (1) of the Charities Act 2011 so we are unable to confirm this to you.

We do however hold some information which indicates the ownership of the land in question. This information is exempt from disclosure under s 21 of the Act as it is available to you by other means.

On track to meet your deadline?

Visit www.gov.uk/charity-commission for help on filing your annual return and accounts

t: 0300 066 9197 (General enquiries)

w: www.gov.uk/charity-commission

Please follow the link to a final report published 7 November 2019 by Leeds City Council in which it details ownership of the land you refer to.

<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=50280>

**Are you also able to confirm that LSSA hold the other half of the above football pitch which is owned by Leeds City Council and held in a 'Trust' by LSSA?*

I would refer you to the response above.

*. *That the Charity Commission have given permission to LSSA to sell the above mentioned land and half of the football pitch to Leeds City Council, who are a connected person?*

We do not hold this information.

**Has the Charity Commission sought any further clarification in relation to the various discrepancies between the financial returns made to the Charity Commission all on the same day 20/1/2018?*

To clarify this question your forms that were filled in by LSSA have the following different answers under the same or similar questions

A19 - Land or buildings?

In 2014 = Land and buildings owned by the charity not for charitable purposes.

In 2015 = Land and buildings owned by the charity not for charitable purposes.

In 2016 = Yes land or buildings are owned. No, they are not used for charitable purposes, used for investment or other purposes.

In 2017 = Yes land or buildings are owned. Yes, most or all are used for charitable purposes.

The Charity Commission has not sought any further clarification regarding the financial returns made to it on 20/01/2018.

**Apart from their 2017 financial statement these appear to be in direct conflict with their charitable objects, which state TO ENDEAVOUR TO SECURE BETTER FACILITIES FOR PLAYING GAMES IN OPEN SPACES AND TO SECURE ADEQUATE EQUIPMENT FOR ALL GAMES IN ALL SCHOOLS, will the Charity Commission take any action where charities do not carry out their charitable objects?*

We do not hold this information in connection with this charity. Any decisions about what, if any, action the Commission would take regarding any charity would be considered on a case by case basis. Further information as to how the Charity Commission regulates charities can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-we-ensure-charities-meet-their-legal-requirements/where-we-investigate-charities>

The correspondence that you have attached that relates to the reinstatement of the LSSA as a Charity appears to have begun on 11/4/2013, when they contacted you having not returned any financial statements since 2009, following this contact LSSA appear to have further failed to return any financial statements for the next 5 additional years, before again contacting you by letter 16/11/2017 wishing to have the charity reinstated and you instructed them to submit their financial statements for the years 2012 through to 2017 inclusive within 15 working days of your response, which they again did not do, finally later returning only the years 2014-2018 inclusive on 20/1/2018.

** In light of the Charity LSSA not being officially recorded as being operational between 2011-2017 and not submitting any financial statements between 2009-2018, at what point would the land vested in them for the provision of sporting facilities, land which they abandoned in 2002 and members of the public have made requests to make use of, become the responsibility of Leeds City Council who are to take over the trust of the land in the event that LSSA cease to be a Charity since Leeds City Council are who they now appear to be 'selling' this land to for purposes other than those for which It was vested to them?*

We do not hold this information. It may be helpful if I explain that a Charity's governing document will usually make provisions for what should happen to any property it holds in the event it dissolves, although it is unlikely to stipulate at what point should any property be transferred to another body.

**I am also confused about the questions on your forms surrounding LSSA's income as they state that they do not collect from the public, nor do they have any contract with Government or Local Government yet the LSSA AGM 2018 says that they reverse charge all schools in Leeds and the money is collected for them by Leeds City Council. Has this part of the form also been incorrectly filled in by LSSA?*

The Commission does not hold information relevant to your request. Any queries about how a Charity has responded to questions on the forms should be raised with them directly.

I trust you will find this helpful.

Yours sincerely

Katherine O'Hare
Information Rights and Complaints Manager
Charity Commission

If you think our decision is wrong, you can ask for it to be reviewed. Such requests should be submitted within three months of the date of our response and should be addressed to the Charity Commission at PO Box 211, Bootle, L20 7YX (email: RIGA@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk). More information about our

Freedom of Information Act review service can be found on the following link on our website:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission/about/complaints-procedure>.

If, after this, you remain unhappy with the decision, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our review procedure. The ICO can be contacted at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF (email: casework@ico.org.uk.)