

**Gregory Moore**  
Deputy Town Clerk



Circulated to the Respondent, Objector, and other interested parties

**Date** 06 February 2025

**Re: City of London Ward Lists – Outcome of hearing  
City of London (Various Powers) Act 1957  
Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001**

I am writing to advise all parties of my decision in relation to the inclusion of John Griffiths (“the Respondent”) in the final Ward List for the Ward of Castle Baynard for 2025 – 2026, as appointed by Dr Johnson’s House Trust (“the Trust”) at 17 Gough Square, London EC4A 3DE (“the Premises”).

A hearing was held on 31 January 2025 at the Guildhall before me, Greg Moore, Deputy Town Clerk, under delegated authority from the Town Clerk and Chief Executive. I was assisted by Edward Wood, Assistant City Solicitor and Alice Loynes, Acting Electoral Services Manager.

In attendance was Martha Grekos (“the Objector”), who had submitted the objection to the inclusion of the Respondent in the provisional Ward List. The Respondent also attended the hearing and was accompanied by Celine Luppó McDaid, The Hyde Director of the Trust (“the Interested Party”).

It was not disputed by the Objector that the Trust was a qualifying body for the purposes of the City of London (Various Powers) Act 1957 (“the 1957 Act”) and the City of London (Ward Elections) Act 2002 (“the 2002 Act”) and that it was occupying the Premises for relevant purposes as owner or tenant. However, it was disputed that the Respondent satisfied any of the conditions to be appointed as a voter by the Trust under section 5 of the 2002 Act.

It was common ground between the parties that if the Respondent had been a member of the governing body of the Trust for a year or more on 1 September 2024 (the qualifying date) then the Premises should be treated as his principal or only place of work for that period, under section 5(5) of the 2002 Act.

However, the Objector disputed that this was the case, because the Charity Commission and Companies House records did not list the Respondent as a board member, trustee, or director, and because his register of interests as an elected member of the City Corporation did not show him to be a board member until 3 September 2024. She also queried whether a nomination or

appointment of an elected member to an outside body by the City Corporation (which would have been the case here) should count for these purposes.

For his part the Respondent confirmed that he had been a board member of the Trust since 2022. He submitted documentary evidence showing that he had sought confirmation from the Electoral Services Team in August 2024 regarding his eligibility to be appointed as a voter by the Trust. He had also asked the Town Clerk's Department to include his position with the Trust in his register of interests on 26 August 2024, before the qualifying date.

The Interested Party confirmed that the Respondent was an active and highly valued member of the governing body of the Trust. She explained that there were a smaller number of directors who were registered with the Charity Commission and Companies House, but that all of the governors, including the Respondent, were full members of the Trust's governing body.

Following the hearing, the Interested Party submitted an additional letter clarifying that the Respondent officially joined the governing body of the Trust on 31 May 2022, following an initial nomination process by the City Corporation. This was evidenced by an additional note subsequently added to the minutes of the Trust's meeting on 8 March 2022. The Interested Party also submitted a conflicts of interest form signed by the Respondent as a trustee of the Trust and dated 20 June 2023.

Whilst there were a few minor discrepancies over dates and record keeping, ample evidence was therefore provided to me that the Respondent was a member of the governing body of the Trust and had been so for well over the minimum required period as at the qualifying date.

The Respondent was advised at the hearing that his register of interests ought to have been promptly updated following his appointment to the governing body of the Trust, as there was an ongoing requirement to register new interests. However, in electoral terms it made no difference whether his register of interests was updated before or after the qualifying date, and the contents of his register were not determinative for present purposes.

The Electoral Services Team had already sought advice from the City Solicitor's Department regarding the Respondent's eligibility, following his initial enquiry. However, the full facts of the matter were not provided at that time, including the connection between the City Corporation and the Trust. As requested by the Objector, I have therefore sought further specific legal advice on this point. I am advised that, so long as the Trust and the Respondent satisfy the requirements of the legislation, there is no disqualification arising from the City Corporation having been involved in his nomination or appointment to the governing body.

I do not therefore consider that the Objector has established, on the balance of probabilities, that the Respondent ought to be removed. Accordingly, he will be included in the final Ward List for the Ward of Castle Baynard for 2025 – 2026.

There is a right of appeal to the Mayor's and City of London Court in relation to this decision.

Yours sincerely



**Greg Moore**  
Deputy Town Clerk