

Tottenham War Services Institute (TWSI) | Reg Charity No: 217176
c/o Russell-Cooke LLP | 2 Putney Hill | London | SW15 6AB

Tottenham War Services Institute - Statement - February 2020

On 16.04.2018 the letter (below) was sent to LB Haringey, Licencing Dept. A prompt response was received, from Team Leader, Daliah Barrett, confirming that LB Haringey records had been updated to show all licencing had been rescinded.

Since 2018, despite requests from the TWSI, LB Haringey enforcement action has not followed, with unauthorised occupiers continuing to promote / hold public events on unlicensed, uninspected, premises.

Tottenham War Services Institute
399-401 High Road
Tottenham, N17 6QN

Reg Charity No: 217176
Licensing Team
Level 1 North - River Park House
225 High Road, Wood Green N22 8HQ

Email: licensing@haringey.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam,

We wish to surrender the licence held for our premises at 399 - 401 High Road, Tottenham. Since 29.01.18, the ground floor of our building has been occupied by a group of individuals whose stated purpose is to disrupt the working of the TWSI (Tottenham War Services Institute).

Despite an Order For Possession being granted by the County Court at Edmonton, this group has continued to hold activities and meetings in the building with the same disruptive aim.

We therefore request this withdrawal of licensing facility in order for us to reduce the opportunity for public activities to be organised or promoted on the premises without the approval and consent of the TWSI.

Yours Faithfully,

Chairperson
Tottenham War Services Institute
Reg Charity No: 217176

To Whom It May Concern

Our ref: CP/ADS/00139737/00000002

20 January 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

**399 High Road Tottenham ("the Property")
Confirmation of Ownership**

We confirm the following on behalf of our clients, the trustees of the Tottenham War Services Institute:

1. That our clients have the registered freehold estate in the Property with title number AGL316482. Land Registry Official Copies and title plan are attached.
2. That our clients have a registered leasehold estate in part of the Property with title number AGL333162. Land Registry Official Copies and title plan are attached.
3. That it is clear from the Land Registry that our clients hold the Property as charity trustees and not in their personal capacity.
4. That as charity trustees our clients will not and cannot take any personal financial or other benefit from the Property.
5. That the Charity Commission is aware of the steps being taken by our clients and is happy that they are acting properly.

Yours faithfully


Russell-Cooke LLP

TWSI BACKGROUND

The Tottenham War Services Institute is a registered charity Reg Charity (No: 217176). The [charity register](#) of the UK & I Charity Commission, shows the registered trustees.

The original trust deed dates from 1920. The charity register [here](#) shows that the charity was registered on 11 January 1965 and that its governing document is a scheme dated 20 April 1995 as amended by a scheme dated 10 February 2014.

There are no requirements as to the residence of the trustees. Indeed one of the first trustees had an address in Enfield.

Since 2008, voluntary trustees of the TWSI have created, welcomed and organised a host of arts, music, social and community events to the building at 399 High Road, Tottenham, mostly under the name “Tottenham Chances” or “TChances”, a non-profit entity.

The TWSI owns the building and grounds freehold as a private charitable organisation, with no ratepayer, tax-payer or grant subsidies. The TWSI governing “Scheme”, (official declaration of objectives), is to use its resources to support ex-service personnel living in Tottenham, their families, descendants and the wider community as seen fit.

Until 2010 the TWSI’s property, 399-401 High Road, Tottenham, was controlled by the Royal British Legion (RBL) under an agreement known as “custodian trusteeship”. Under this arrangement, a number of TWSI land and property sales were made by the RBL.

Despite being the legal owners of the land and property, the TWSI has never received the funds from these sales and leasing.

After a long legal challenge, the RBL agreed to return the title deeds of the property and grounds back to the TWSI. The RBL’s condition was that the TWSI would assume any and all responsibility for the sales, leases and arrangements made by the RBL up to that point, but without receiving any of the funds originally generated by those transactions.

TChances was created as a non-profit social enterprise, to meet the objectives of the TWSI while also helping generate funds to support the building. Meanwhile, part of the property was provided at a non-commercial rate to **Footsteps Vocational Academy**, for young people excluded from mainstream education.

JANUARY 2018

In January 2018, a “protest” group broke into the TWSI building at 399 High Road, Tottenham, comprising a few ex-users of the building and attendant supporters.

Using the names “*Tottenham War Services Institute Steering Committee*” and “*New Chances Group*”, occupiers took control of the ground floor of the building, ransacked TWSI offices and began numerous online and in-person threats and public allegations against the TWSI trustees.

Initially occupiers claimed that they were authorised to manage events at the building, while at the same time causing distress for staff and students of Footsteps Academy on the 2nd floor.

On 08.03.18, the TWSI was granted a Possession Order by Judge Dias, at the County Court at Edmonton. An adjoining Writ of Possession was subsequently acquired and executed by High Court Enforcement officers on Monday 04.06.18.

After execution of the Writ of Possession, at the request of Metropolitan Police Tottenham, TWSI Trustees, allowed a funeral event to go ahead on Monday 04.06.18 in the interest of public order. Re-allowing limited access, after eviction action taken by High Court Enforcement officers, was likely to complicate or prevent the final clearing of the building.

In order to prevent distress to funeral attendees, TWSI trustees agree to allow the occasion to go ahead. This however, enabled the previous occupiers to re-enter and regain control of the premises.

JANUARY 2020

The illegal occupation of the building in 2018 and subsequent court sanctioned enforcement actions were **clearly** communicated to all relevant authorities including the Metropolitan Police and Haringey Council departments.

However, by June 2018, LB Haringey Rates Department had applied to the High Court for the TWSI to be dissolved on the grounds of unpaid Business Rates. This despite their formal acknowledgment of the charitable status of the TWSI, which had previously given the charity an 80% rate charge rebate. The LBH action failed, with costs awarded in favour of the TWSI.

In January 2020, LB Haringey served a Statutory Demand for the full extent of the previously claimed Business Rates, this time on the individual holding trustees of the property.

Meanwhile, the illegal occupiers of the property were charging unwitting local community groups and churches for use of the building, formally misrepresenting themselves as legally appointed TWSI trustees, from an address funded by LB Haringey. Example below....

Tottenham War Services Institute (TWSI)

Special Private and Confidential

Conveyed by Royal Mail Special Delivery No: WM 4747 7834 5GB

Our Ref: 2020/TWSI/INV
Date: 15th January 2020

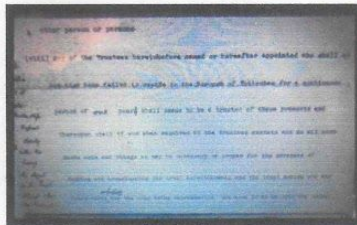
Dear [REDACTED]

RE: TWSI at Studio 9, The Trampery, 639 High Road Tottenham, N17 8AA

We write to inform you that I act as the Trustee of the above named Trust. As Trustee there is an obligation to carry out fiduciary duties which are governed by legislation and are onerous. Part of our obligation is to assist to ensure that all the true debts and liabilities are settled and to restore any and all assets income dividends or profits to the Trust for the benefit of our beneficiaries and in accordance with the Trust Indenture and Trustee fiduciary duties.

The above-named Trust, its assets and their maintenance and administration has been the subject of serious abuse amounting to wrongs. These wrongs are extensive and amount to a range of criminal, civil and equitable wrongs which involve people and parties who have acted individually and or severally as "Trustees De Son Tort" or participated in activities in contravention of the Trust Indenture which also stipulates the conditions under which people can be considered Trustees or NOT.

TWSI Indenture extract:



It appears that several improprieties have occurred which has now been brought to the attention of the Trustee. Where you or parties known to you have deliberately or inadvertently been involved directly or indirectly in matters which may be or are wrongs you are formally requested to deliver up all data that exists that relates to the Trust and your involvement. Where there has been wrongs, including breaches of the Trust and deliberate actions or inactions to deny the Trust redress, restitution, relief and restoration arises, this will be taken to form part of the conclusion to this investigation which currently includes one or more of the following:-

Trustee's Address: TWSI at Studio 9, The Trampery, 639 High Road Tottenham, N17 8AA

Tottenham War Services Institute (TWSI)

Special Private and Confidential

Conveyed by Royal Mail Special Delivery No:XXXXXXXXXX

1. Breach of contract
2. Unjust enrichments
3. Non disclosure of relevant information
4. Undue Influence
5. The Misrepresentation Act 1967
6. The Fraud Act 2006,
7. The Consumer Credit Act 1974 has been violated
8. The Protection From Harassment Act 1997 has been violated
9. The Theft Act 1968 has been violated

Based on the above it would be advisable if you could immediately refrain from involvement in and make good any and all wrongs past, present or future to the Trust.

Should you fail to do the above it is incumbent upon the Trust to seek immediate redress to restore all assets including income to the Trust.

In the event that you fail or delay to make good any and all wrongs past, present or future to the Trust the Trustee's duty is to seek the total restoration of assets belonging to the estate. In the instance that your actions amount to a benefit to you and, or a loss or damage to the Trust then you are asked to return or provide redress, restitution and restoration of the same to the Trust. Failure to do so within 20 calendar days of receipt of this notice will mean that the Trust will not have the benefit of the monies due and this will mean that a guaranteed return of 0.80% daily, compounded will be lost as a foreseeable consequence of your actions. This money is due to a financial HELP and ASSIST PROGRAM that provides unregulated loans against secured assets.

The Trust will act to obtain redress relief and restitution by means of any and all civil, criminal and chancery action. Your prompt action will minimise the increasing liability against you.

Finally, the Trust means what it says.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Signature: 

Name in

CAPITALS:

A NEGRAJ

Trustee's Address: TWSI at Studio 9, The Trampery, 639 High Road Tottenham, N17 8AA

SUMMARY

The illegal occupation of the TWSI premises was finally brought to an end in January 2020, after further County Court application for renewed Writ of Possession.

Two years of ongoing personal threats, physical assault, unfounded and publicly broadcast allegations of wrongdoing have taken a severe toll on the lives, homes, families and livelihoods of unpaid, voluntary TWSI trustees, past and present.

At time of writing, repeated, unsupported, legal challenges by the occupiers of the TWSI building, have all been defeated at County and High Court, but at huge cost to the charity and thus it's beneficiaries.

Following thorough review and guidance in person by officers of the Charity Commission, as well as ongoing advice from Russell-Cooke LLP, a renowned firm of specialist solicitors, the TWSI is now urgently required to progress the following:

- Police follow-up investigations into the reported, documented, breaking, entering and theft of circa £40,000.00 of professional printing equipment from the properly secured basement of 399 High Road by illegal occupiers.
- Review and re-issue of the Business Rates currently being sought through High Court insolvency proceedings against voluntary registered holding trustees of the TWSI.
- Resumption of full collaboration with LB Haringey departments responsible for Urban Regeneration and Planning, for the wider benefit of the Haringey community.
- Review of statutory responsibilities of LB Haringey for enforcement of licencing conditions as repeatedly requested by the TWSI.
- Consideration of actions to be considered in the light of individuals advertising via LB Haringey services and / or premises for rental to public and community bodies of licensed premises to which LB Haringey inspectors had been denied access.
- Documented misrepresentation to LB Haringey and (18.02.20) to Edmonton County Court, of individuals claiming to be appointed trustees of a UK & I registered charity, in order to gain right of possession of freehold property within LB Haringey.

Reporting to the Charity Commission, the TWSI is bound to provide all necessary help to the London Borough Of Haringey and all other authorities to achieve a positive outcome for the Haringey community.