



**IN THE FIRST-TIER TRIBUNAL  
GENERAL REGULATORY  
CHAMBER (CHARITY)**

**Appeal number: CA/2020/0009**

**BETWEEN:**

**THE SIKH CHANNEL COMMUNITY BROADCASTING COMPANY  
LIMITED**

**Appellant**

**- AND -**

**THE CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Respondent**

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**DIRECTIONS**

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UPON the Tribunal having received submissions from the appellant;

AND UPON the Tribunal having convened an urgent telephone hearing.

**IT IS NOW DIRECTED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The substantive consideration will not be postponed.
2. As per the ex tempore decision made today, the appellant is granted until 13:45 today to provide a skeleton argument.

**REASONS**

3. A Case Management Hearing took place on 18 June 2020. The resulting directions are found in the bundle at pages A167 to A169, the dates were amended on 21 July 2020. After 23 July 2020, and following receipt of the bundles, the respondent's skeleton argument and authorities bundle, the Tribunal was informed that the appellant may be making an application. The appellant was then informed that the Panel were due to meet on 30 July 2020.

4. By submissions dated 29 July 2020 and sent on 30 July 2020 to the Tribunal (copied to the Charity Commission), the appellant's barrister, Mr Dhillon, who the Tribunal was informed was instructed on a direct access basis and for this hearing only sought:
  - 4.1. That the appeal was stayed to allow for a new preliminary issue to be determined;
  - 4.2. Directions for determination of that issue;
  - 4.3. To notify the Tribunal that the appellant has made a proposal to de-register as a charity.
5. In their submissions, the appellant claimed that there was "confusion" as to whether the hearing of 30 July 2020 was a substantive hearing or a directions hearing, the appellant having understood it to be a directions hearing. They went on to submit that the appointed Interim Manager (Anthony Collins Solicitors) had a conflict of interest because the appellant and its former Trustees had sought confidential legal advice from Anthony Collins solicitors in relation to the Statutory Inquiry.
6. Due to the nature of the submissions made, and because it was possible for the Tribunal office to arrange a short-notice telephone hearing, I held a telephone hearing at which Mr Dhillon represented the appellant and Mr Rechtman represented the Charity Commission. I am grateful to both of them for their assistance and recognise that Mr Dhillon had been instructed very late in the day.
7. I gave the decision orally as above, these are my written reasons.
  - 7.1. The only reason that the appellant knew the Panel was due to convene today was because of their indication of "possibly" making an application. It is the usual practice of this tribunal not to inform parties of the date on which a paper consideration will take place.
  - 7.2. The appellant (the Sikh Channel Community Broadcasting Company Limited) via its trustees knew on 19 March 2020 that Anthony Collins solicitors had been appointed. Mr Dhillon was without instructions as to why it had taken them some 4 months to mention their apparent concern about conflict of interest.
  - 7.3. In any event, these proceedings cannot interfere with who has been appointed.
  - 7.4. The only document from Anthony Collins Solicitors which is in the bundle is their First Interim Report, dated 15 May 2020 and found at pages A1011 to A1012.
  - 7.5. The Tribunal will consider all the documents, including the grounds of appeal, when making its decision, so the absence of a skeleton argument will not cause undue prejudice to the appellant.

**JUDGE REBECCA WORTH**

**DATED: 30 July 2020**