

ORDER under the Companies Act 2006

In the matter of application

No. 1416 by Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC

For a change of company name of registration

No. 10576949

DECISION

The company name STANDARD & POOR'S FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD has been registered since 23 January 2017.

By an application filed on 13 April 2017, Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC applied for a change of name of this registration under the provisions of section 69(1) of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act).

A copy of the application was sent by Royal Mail recorded delivery to the primary respondent's registered office on 16 May 2017, in accordance with rule 3(2) of the Company Names Adjudicator Rules 2008. On the same date, the Tribunal also wrote to Messrs John Berisford and Matthew Bosrock to inform them that the applicant had requested that they be joined to the proceedings. On 21 July 2017, Messrs John Berisford and Matthew Bosrock were both joined as co-respondents. The letter to Mr Berisford, confirming that he had been joined, was returned to the tribunal marked 'not at this address – return to sender'. On 28 September 2017, the parties were advised that, as no defence had been received to the application, the adjudicator may treat the application as not being opposed. A period of 14 days to request a hearing was allowed in relation to this matter. The letter addressed to the primary respondent was returned to the tribunal marked 'no longer at this address' return to sender'. No request for a hearing was made.

The primary respondent did not file a defence within the two month period specified by the adjudicator under rule 3(3). Rule 3(4) states

"The primary respondent, before the end of that period, shall file a counter-statement on the appropriate form, otherwise the adjudicator may treat it as not opposing the application and may make an order under section 73(1)."

Under the provisions of this rule, the adjudicator may exercise discretion so as to treat the respondent as opposing the application. In this case I can see no reason to exercise such discretion and, therefore, decline to do so.

As the primary respondent has not responded to the allegations made, it is treated as not opposing the application. Therefore, in accordance with section 73(1) of the Act I make the following order:

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- (a) STANDARD & POOR'S FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD shall change its name **within one month** of the date of this order to one that is not an offending name¹;
- (b) STANDARD & POOR'S FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD and Messrs John Berisford and Matthew Bosrock shall:
 - (i) take such steps as are within their power to make, or facilitate the making, of that change;
 - (ii) not cause or permit any steps to be taken calculated to result in another company being registered with a name that is an offending name.

In accordance with s. 73(3) of the Act, this order may be enforced in the same way as an order of the High Court or, in Scotland, the Court of Session.

In any event, if no such change is made within one month of the date of this order, I will determine a new company name as per section 73(4) of the Act and will give notice of that change under section 73(5) of the Act.

All respondents, including individual co-respondents, have a legal duty under Section 73(1)(b)(ii) of the Companies Act 2006 not to cause or permit any steps to be taken calculated to result in another company being registered with an offending name; this includes the current company. *Non-compliance may result in an action being brought for contempt of court and may result in a custodial sentence.*

Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC has been successful as the application has not been defended. Accordingly, I have considered whether it is appropriate to make an award of costs in its favour. The following question is asked at box 7 of the statutory application form (CNA1):

"Did you contact the company/limited liability partnership in relation to this matter prior to filing the application? If so, when did you do so and what did you say to the company/limited liability partnership?"

The following answer was given to this question:

"No"

As Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC did not inform STANDARD & POOR'S FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD of its intention to file the subject application with the Company Names Tribunal, it is not entitled to an award of costs.

Any notice of appeal against this decision to order a change of name must be given within one month of the date of this order. Appeal is to the High Court

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in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and to the Court of Session in Scotland.

The company adjudicator must be advised if an appeal is lodged, so that implementation of the order is suspended.

Dated this 18th day of October 2017

Beverley Hedley
Company Names Adjudicator

ⁱAn “offending name” means a name that, by reason of its similarity to the name associated with the applicant in which he claims goodwill, would be likely to be the subject of a direction under section 67 (power of Secretary of State to direct change of name), or to give rise to a further application under section 69.