

O-397-16

ORDER under the Companies Act 2006

In the matter of application

No. 1173 by Axa

For a change of company name of registration

No. 10135717

DECISION

The company name CONTRACTOR AXA LIMITED has been registered since 20 April 2016 under number 10135717.

By an application filed on 18 May 2016, Axa 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 this application was sent to the primary respondent's registered office on 27 May 2016, in accordance with rule 3(2) of the Company Names Adjudicator Rules 2008. The copy of the application was sent by Royal Mail special delivery. On 11 July 2016, the parties were advised that no defence had been received to the application and so the adjudicator may treat the application as not being opposed. The parties were granted a period of 14 days to request a hearing in relation to this matter, if they so wished. No request for a hearing was made.

However, a telephone call was made to the Tribunal on 25 July 2016, from an unnamed solicitor claiming to be acting for the primary respondent. It was said that the primary respondent was in the process of filing a change of name at Companies House, but that this might not be done for a few weeks. No request to add a solicitor as an address for service has been made.

The primary respondent did not file a defence within the one 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. I have considered the impact of the telephone call. However, nothing was done in the one month period prior to the deadline for filing a defence, and no change of name has been made in the intervening period. Further, the information conveyed in the telephone call carries little weight because the solicitor has not been

appointed as an address for service. 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:

- (a) CONTRACTOR AXA LIMITED shall change its name **within one month** of the date of this order to one that is not an offending name¹;
- (b) CONTRACTOR AXA LIMITED shall:
 - (i) take such steps as are within its power to make, or facilitate the making, of that change;
 - (ii) not to 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.

The primary respondent therefore has another month to change its name. 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.

Axa, having been successful, is entitled to a contribution towards its costs. I order CONTRACTOR AXA LIMITED to pay Axa costs on the following basis:

Fee for application:	£400
Statement of case:	£400
Total:	£800

This sum is to be paid within seven days of the expiry of the appeal period or within seven days of the final determination of this case if any appeal against this decision is unsuccessful.

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 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 16th day of August 2016

Judi Pike
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.