

O-347-16

ORDER under the Companies Act 2006

In the matter of application

No. 1107 by ZURICH INSURANCE COMPANY LTD

For a change of company name of registration

No. 09919808

DECISION

The company name ZURICH GROUP LIMITED was registered on 17 December 2015 under number 09919808. The company name was subsequently amended on 8 March 2016 to GENEVA-ZURICH GROUP LIMITED.

By an application filed on 12 February 2016, Zurich Insurance Company Ltd 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 4 March 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. It was returned "not known". A copy of the application was then sent by ordinary post.

The Tribunal wrote to Gary Richman and Alex Zurich on 6 and 31 May 2016 respectively to inform them that the applicant had requested that they be joined to the proceedings. The letters were sent via recorded delivery. The letter sent to Gary Richman was returned marked "addressee unknown" and Alex Zurich returned as "undelivered". Each letter was subsequently sent via normal post. No responses were received from either party.

In the aforementioned 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.

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. 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) GENEVA-ZURICH GROUP LIMITED shall change its name **within one month** of the date of this order to one that is not an offending nameⁱ;
- (b) GARY RICHMAN and ALEX ZURICH shall:
 - (i) take such steps as are within their 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.

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.*

Zurich Insurance Company Ltd, having been successful, is entitled to a contribution towards its costs. I order Geneva-Zurich Group Limited, Gary Richman and Alex Zurich, being jointly and severally liable, to pay £800 costs on the following basis:

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

This sum is to be paid within fourteen days of the expiry of the appeal period or within fourteen 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 20th day of July 2016

Mark King
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.