

ORDER under the Companies Act 2006

In the matter of application

No. 1468 by LLOYDS BANK PLC

For a change of company name of registration

No. 10544017

DECISION

The company name LLOYDS FINANCE GROUP LTD has been registered since 3 January 2017 under number 10544017.

By an application filed on 23 June 2017, LLOYDS BANK PLC 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 June 2017 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. The letter was returned marked "Signed For" and "Return to Sender". On 10 July 2017, the letter was re-issued by standard mail. That letter was also returned marked "Return to Sender".

Also on 27 June 2017, the Tribunal wrote to Mr Andreas Sofocleous (the respondent's Director and Company Secretary) to inform him that the applicant had requested that he be joined to the proceedings. The letter was returned marked "Return to Sender". On 10 July 2017, the letter was re-issued by standard mail. That letter was also returned marked "Return to Sender".

On 4 August 2017, Mr Andreas Sofocleous was joined as a co-respondent and 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. The letters to the primary respondent and co-respondent were returned marked "Return to Sender". Both letters were re-issued on 16 August 2017. 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

O-495-17

“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) LLOYDS FINANCE GROUP LTD shall change its name **within one month** of the date of this order to one that is not an offending nameⁱ;
- (b) LLOYDS FINANCE GROUP LTD and Mr Andreas Sofocleous 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 these orders, 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.*

LLOYDS BANK PLC having been successful, are entitled to a contribution towards their costs. I order LLOYDS FINANCE GROUP LTD and Mr Andreas Sofocleous, being jointly and severally liable, to pay LLOYDS BANK PLC costs on the following basis:

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

O-495-17

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 11th day of October 2017

Oliver Morris
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.