



Regulation of school managers and governors: prohibition direction

Name: Miriam Sebbagh

Former position: Teacher and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, Hunwick Primary School, County Durham

Prescribed grounds on which the direction has been issued:

Under section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008, the “appropriate authority” (in this case the Secretary of State) may give a direction prohibiting a person from taking part in the management of an independent school on prescribed grounds connected with the person’s suitability. The grounds on which a person may be prohibited are prescribed in the Independent Education Provision in England (Prohibition from Participation in Management) Regulations 2014.

A direction was given in respect of Miriam Sebbagh on 30 November 2022. The Secretary of State found that Ms Sebbagh had:

- engaged in conduct that is so inappropriate;
- and that because of this she is unsuitable to take part in the management of an independent school (including an Academy or Free School). The direction also has the effect of disqualifying Ms Sebbagh from being a governor at a maintained school.

Summary

Miriam Sebbagh was a teacher at Hunwick Primary School. In July 2017, she was arrested on suspicion of providing funding for terrorism. In February 2020, a Forfeiture of Detained Cash order was made against Ms Sebbagh. The Judge found Ms Sebbagh to be an unreliable witness and her explanation for the monies not credible. It has been demonstrated that Ms Sebbagh was providing funding for terrorism whilst she was working as a school teacher. Further, the police found evidence suggesting that she had adopted a radical form of Islam. Ms Sebbagh sought to radicalise her friend to a radical form of Islam and has associated with known extremists to the extent that she has provided them with money that she knew, or ought to have known, would be used for the purposes of terrorism. It is therefore, the view of the Secretary of State that Ms Sebbagh’s behaviour amounts to conduct that is so inappropriate that it makes her unsuitable to take part in the management of an independent school.