

Town Clerk's Department

Gregory Moore

Interim Deputy Town Clerk



Circulated to the Respondent, Objector, and other interested parties

Date 13 February 2024

**Re: City of London Ward Lists – Outcome of hearing
City of London (Various Powers) Act 1957
Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001**

I am writing to advise all parties of my decision in relation to the inclusion of Carly Webster in the final Ward List for the Ward of Castle Baynard for 2024 – 2025, as appointed by the Sophie Hayes Foundation (“the Foundation”) at 107-111 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2AB (“the Premises”).

A hearing was held on 5 February 2024 at the Guildhall before me, Greg Moore, Interim Deputy Town Clerk, under delegated authority from the Town Clerk and Chief Executive. I was assisted by Edward Wood, Assistant City Solicitor and Alice Loynes, Electoral Services and City Occupiers Database Deputy Manager.

In attendance was Common Councillor Eamonn Mullally (“the Objector”), who had submitted the objection to the inclusion of Carly Webster in the provisional Ward List. He was accompanied by Alderwoman Martha Grekos.

It was not disputed by the Objector that the Foundation was a qualifying body for the purposes of the City of London (Various Powers) Act 1957 (“the 1957 Act”) and the City of London (Ward Elections) Act 2002. Nor was it disputed that the Foundation was occupying the Premises for relevant purposes on 1 September 2023 (the qualifying date).

The main issue to be determined at the hearing was whether the Foundation was occupying the Premises as owner or tenant, as required under section 6(1)(c) of the 1957 Act, in order to give rise to a right to appoint one or more voters. A simple licence to occupy premises, with no exclusive possession – such as is often found in shared workspaces – would not satisfy the relevant requirement.

As part of his objection the Objector had submitted an email from Regus, the leaseholder of the Premises, and the company through which the Foundation had procured its office accommodation. The email stated that, “The service we provide our customers are service agreements not leases.”

Carly Webster and the Foundation were not represented at the hearing, and they did not make any written representations.

In the circumstances I consider that the Objector has provided sufficient evidence to establish, on the balance of probabilities, that Carly Webster has not been validly registered, and that her entry ought to be removed.

Accordingly, Carly Webster will not be included in the final Ward List for the Ward of Castle Baynard for 2024 – 2025.

There is a right of appeal to the Mayor’s and City of London Court in relation to this decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Moore', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Greg Moore
Interim Deputy Town Clerk