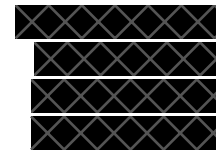


Appendix 3

Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster in Ireland



Attn: Fr Paddy Rushe
Chaplaincy Team
Dundalk Institute of Technology
Dublin Road
Dundalk
Co Louth
A91 K584

Re: Request for a Pastafarian Service within the Chaplaincy

Dear Fr Rushe,

I would like to make a formal request that the Dundalk IT Chaplaincy should facilitate a Pastafarian Service within your Quiet Room. In this regard, I refer to the recently published decision of the Workplace Relation Commission following an identical request that I made to you previously. The adjudicator explained that decision as follows:

"In my view the approach taken by the complainant at the adjudication hearing that he was discriminated against because he has no religious beliefs is inconsistent with the ES1 form and the WRC complaint form where he claims to have been discriminated on the grounds of his non-mainstream religious beliefs."

If the adjudicator was confused as to my religious beliefs then you could certainly not be in any doubt, Fr Rushe. From both our previous meetings on campus and also from our extensive correspondence over several years, you will already be fully aware that I am an atheist and that the Pastafarian Service that I wish to arrange will promote my non-religious beliefs.

Specifically, the Pastafarian Service that I am keen to provide for Dundalk IT students, will be opposed to addressing addiction issues through the supernatural intervention of a long-

dead Beneventan priest. I understand that within the Roman Catholic Church, it is widely accepted that Padre Pio was capable of not only levitation and bilocation, but also of composing propitiations that are effective at dealing with addiction issues. Indeed, you have previously used your State-funded position as Chaplain at Dundalk IT, to promote a "*Prayer Book For Those Affected By Addiction*" on campus, and this book includes a prayer composed by Padre Pio. I have attached details of these promotions for your reference.

The Pastafarian Service that I would like to arrange in your Chaplaincy Quiet Room, will include a discussion of intercessory prayer and its efficacy or otherwise. This will involve several theological issues relating to concerns associated with theodicy. In particular, my non-religious beliefs incorporate a teaching that any god who is capable of resolving addiction issues but very often decides not to (or any god who is less likely to resolve such issues if propitiations are not offered) is inherently evil and unworthy of worship. While I accept that such beliefs are not consistent with yours, I understand that it is not open to the DkIT Chaplaincy to treat me less favourably than Roman Catholic votaries, because they have religious beliefs and I have not. Moreover, when comparing our contradictory beliefs in relation to addiction issues, it is worth noting that your beliefs on the efficacy of intercessory prayer are not supported by the academic courses currently taught at Dundalk IT, whereas my beliefs are entirely consistent with that evidence-based content.

Consequently, the basis on which I am making this formal request for a Pastafarian Service in your Chaplaincy Quiet Room is as follows:

1. Mission Statement

The Mission-Based Performance Compact between Dundalk IT and the Higher Education Authority dated 31st January 2019¹, includes the following commitment within the Mission Statement:

... engagement relevant to the educational, economic, social and cultural development of the North Leinster-South Ulster region ..."

Cultural services are explicitly included within the scope of the Equal Status Act and my address is well within the catchment area defined by Dundalk IT. Moreover, the stated policy of the Dundalk IT Chaplaincy is that it is "*for people of all faiths and none*"². As such, it is not open to you to carry out engagement relevant to the cultural development of the region, while excluding non-religious groups.

2. Recruitment of Students

When I previously made this request for a Pastafarian Service in the Quiet Room within the Dundalk IT Chaplaincy, the following purported policy was offered as a reason to exclude me:

¹ <https://hea.ie/assets/uploads/2017/04/Dundalk-Institute-of-Technology-Mission-Based-Performance-Compact-2018-2021.pdf>

² <https://www.dkit.ie/dkit-life/student-supports/chaplaincy.html>

"The institute will not facilitate religious and non-religious bodies attempting to use its facilities in the recruitment of students and staff."

It is indeed true that my intention is to use a Pastafarian Service in your Quiet Room as part of efforts to recruit students and staff. However, this purported policy is clearly bogus. Dundalk IT has been unable to demonstrate where the policy is written down, when it was adopted or who approved it. Moreover, it is demonstrably the case that Dundalk IT is perfectly willing to facilitate religious bodies in attempting to use its facilities for the recruitment of students. I have attached details of one such example event, which is aimed at the promotion of Islam towards students. It is not open to Dundalk IT to facilitate such events arranged by those with religious beliefs, while excluding events proposed by those with non-religious beliefs.

3. Requests from Students

When I previously made this request for a Pastafarian Service in the Quiet Room within the Dundalk IT Chaplaincy, the following purported policy was offered as a reason to exclude me:

"Requests for a religious or non-religious service must come from student or staff bodies ..."

This purported policy is clearly bogus. Dundalk IT has been unable to demonstrate where the policy is written down, when it was adopted or who approved it. Moreover, you personally demonstrated that no such policy exists when you previously received a request from a Dundalk IT student for a Pastafarian service. In that instance you differentiated between various students enrolled in the same part-time course, based explicitly on their beliefs about religion.

For the students in the class who had Roman Catholic beliefs, you offered them access to Roman Catholic services in the Dundalk IT Chaplaincy. In contrast, other students in exactly the same class who had paid exactly the same fees to enrol in exactly the same course, would have access to no services in your Chaplaincy, even if they explicitly requested a non-religious Pastafarian service based on their non-religious beliefs. In addition, I note that the Dundalk IT Undergraduate Mini Guide for 2019-2020³ states that the *"DkIT Chaplaincy is available to all students..."*.

4. Outside Bodies

As part of your engagement relevant to cultural development across the region, you have previously invited representatives of religious bodies who are based within the broader catchment area. For example, I have attached details of a visit to Dundalk IT that you arranged for Archbishop Eamon Martin, after His Excellency informed you that he was *"doing a tour of the area"*.

³ <https://www.dkit.ie/study/prospective-students/download-our-prospectus/undergraduate-miniguide.html>

Notwithstanding this, when I previously made an identical request for a Pastafarian Service in the Quiet Room within the Dundalk IT Chaplaincy, the following purported policy was offered as a reason to exclude me:


"... the institute does not deal with requests from any outside bodies or individuals for use of these facilities."

This purported policy is clearly bogus. Dundalk IT has been unable to demonstrate where the policy is written down, when it was adopted or who approved it. Moreover, any such policy would clearly be contrary to the Mission Statement agreed with the HEA. It is not open to you to facilitate events for outside bodies that are religious, while excluding events for outside bodies that are non-religious.

You may be interested to learn that just like His Excellency Archbishop Martin, I will also be 'doing a tour of the area'. As such, I expect that you'll be eager to facilitate my request on a mutually convenient date. I'll look forward to your early response to this correspondence and I expect we'll be able to arrange a date for a one-hour Pastafarian Service in your Chaplaincy Quiet Room, which will be consistent with my non-religious beliefs, before the end of January 2020. May I suggest lunchtime on Tuesday 28th January? Please let me know at your earliest convenience if this will be possible.

Praise be His noodly appendages.

Yours Sincerely,



John Hamill.