

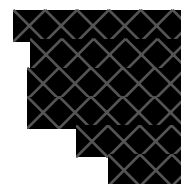
APPENDIX 3

Atheist Ireland

Promoting atheism, reason and ethical secularism

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12th February 2019

Attn: Minister for Defence, Paul Kehoe T.D.
Department of Defence,
Newbridge,
Co Kildare,
W12 AD93.

Re: Religious Discrimination in Military Chaplaincy

Dear Minister Kehoe,

It is now three months since I wrote to you with respect to religious discrimination in appointments to military chaplaincy roles and I have not received any substantive reply. In this context, **I would like to provide you with formal notice that I and others are interested to apply for such State-funded military chaplain positions.** Notwithstanding what Defence Force Regulations or other associated legislation may stipulate¹, I believe that it would be illegal for you to permit any further appointments to these positions to be made by bishops or any other votaries. Rather, all future military chaplaincy appointments must only be made after the roles have been advertised, such that an objective selection process can determine the best candidate.

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge this correspondence at your earliest convenience. In order to avoid future litigation, I believe it is important to note your awareness that allowing for a clerical appointment process to publicly-funded positions, represents discrimination on the religious ground contrary to law.

Yours Sincerely,

John Hamill.

¹ <https://www.lawsociety.ie/gazette/Top-Stories/ihrec-welcomes-wrc-ruling-from-cjeu/>



Atheist Ireland



28 Dec 2018 / HUMAN RIGHTS

IHREC welcomes WRC ruling from CJEU

A **landmark ruling** at the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), in a long-running test case to determine whether **the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC)** has the power to disapply national law that conflicts with **EU law**, has been welcomed by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC).

The original challenge stemmed from the cases of three men who sought to join the Garda Síochána between 2005 and 2007, but who were refused entry based on the *Garda Síochána (Admission and Appointments)*