

Rachel Connolly

From: Paschal Hanrahan
Sent: Monday 17 April 2023 08:09
To: 'BRENNAN Pdraig (EEAS)'; Damian Farnon; Leanne Nolan; Des Connolly; Mick Parsons
Subject: RE: Military Chaplaincy Review Board
Attachments: image001.jpg.htm

Pdraig et al,

Many thanks for that email.

I think it important to acknowledge the errors in the submission to CODF which went unchallenged at the time.

1. There are no compulsory Church Parades in the DF and no one is coerced to attend religious ceremonies. In fact the chaplains identified this issue many years ago and requested it be stopped.
2. There are no compulsory Church Parades at Commissioning or Recruit Pass Out Parades. Where cadets has asked for a service prior to their Commissioning Parade this has been facilitated but only at the request of the cadets.
3. Eucharistic Honours are not and have not in years been part of the State Commemoration at Arbour Hill. The State Commemoration includes a mass and this is solely at the request of the relatives of the executed leaders.

Endorsing Authorities/Sending Churches

Mr John Hamill mentions the appointment of the first Humanist Chaplain with the Canadian Armed Forces but fails to mention the process that involved the accreditation of Humanist Canada and their formal application to the Canadian Ministry of Defence for recognition before the appointment.

"Humanist Canada has been actively engaged in establishing a system of accreditation for those who wish to become humanist chaplains. The Interfaith Committee on Canadian Military Chaplaincy (ICCMC) and the Office of the Chaplain General worked with Humanist Canada to enable and facilitate Captain Khadij's recognition as a humanist chaplain, and is working with the organization to enable the future enrolment of more humanist chaplains."

As mentioned in my previous email, Defence Forces and Ministries of Defence need assurance that the applicant is in good standing, has formal training and their Church/Organisation endorse the candidate and should something go wrong that they can recall the candidate. That is checks and balances stuff.

Mr Hamill's refusal to accept the need for formal accreditation and endorsement is worrying. He wants to be appointed without reference to any overarching body and still fails to answer the question as to what he would bring to chaplaincy that is not already being offered by the PSS.

DFCS Review:

I think it is crucially important that we get our house in order first. We need to put the DFCS on a professional footing. (I neither have a job description or a contract which is not right)

1. We need the formal Job Description
2. We need Terms and Conditions of Service
3. We need continual Training and CME/CPD

I recognise the need to diversify, but we need to set the conditions for success. Yes DFR A3 needs to be amended before anything gets done. I believe that there is a case for a female chaplain and we should be working towards this. I am afraid that if we overly engage with atheist/humanist agencies we will get bogged down in all kinds of battles.

Talk later,

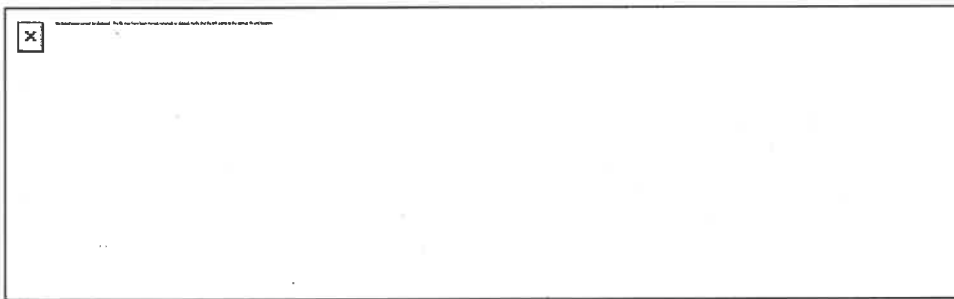
Paschal

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From: BRENNAN Padraig (EEAS) <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Sunday 16 April 2023 20:16

To: Paschal Hanrahan <paschal.hanrahan@defenceforces.ie>; Damian Farnon <damian.farnon@defenceforces.ie>;
Leanne Nolan <leanne.nolan@defenceforces.ie>; Des Connolly <des.connolly@defenceforces.ie>; Mick Parsons
<mick.parsons@defenceforces.ie>

Subject: FW: Military Chaplaincy Review Board

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside the Defence Forces.
Do not click on links and do not open attachments unless the sender is known and trusted.

Good evening

Please see below from Atheist Ireland and referenced attachments. I am happy to meet with any group that wishes to put forward their views. I will let you know a date/ time when this VTC will take place and please join if available. I am still trying to get a POC with PDFORRA and would greatly appreciate your assistance with this.

In regards to Paschal's mail from yesterday, this is a view I very much share and I believe it is the best option for the DF. It is my view that we should reference this other view in our report to ensure all the arguments are presented for consideration but be clear in our recommendation. We can discuss in greater detail tomorrow (Monday).

Regards

Lt Col Padraig BRENNAN

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Mobile: [REDACTED]

From: Michael Nugent <[REDACTED]>

Sent: 14 April 2023 16:22

To: BRENNAN Padraig (EEAS) <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Fwd: Military Chaplaincy Review Board

Dear Padraig,

John Hamill has forwarded us his email (below) to you following your discussion with him about the defence forces chaplaincy.

Atheist Ireland would appreciate an opportunity to discuss with you our perspective on this issue before you finalise your recommendations.

We believe that defence forces chaplains should be defence force chaplains, there for all members of the defence forces, and appointed by the defence forces on the basis of job requirements determined by the defence forces.

While many chaplains are in practice likely to be religious, their positions should not be directly associated with any church, nor should they be nominated or 'sent' by any church, as this would inevitably prejudice their impartiality as defence force chaplains.

We attach below a joint submission from Atheist Ireland, the Evangelical Alliance of Ireland, and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, to the Public Consultation Commission on the Defence Forces in 2021, and a follow-up to that submission.

We look forward to hearing from you and to discussing our perspective with you.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Nugent
Chairperson

Jane Donnelly
Human Rights Officer

Atheist Ireland
<https://atheist.ie>