

Polly Dunn

Assistant Town Clerk and
Executive Director of Governance & Member Services



Circulated to the Respondent, Objector, and other interested parties

Date 28 January 2026

Dear John Griffiths

**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 John Griffiths (“the Respondent”) in the final Ward List for the Ward of Castle Baynard for 2026 – 2027, as appointed by Dr Johnson’s House Trust (“the Trust”) at 17 Gough Square, London EC4A 3DE (“the Premises”).

A hearing was held on 22 January 2026 at the Guildhall before me, Polly Dunn, Assistant Town Clerk, under delegated authority from the Town Clerk and Chief Executive. I was assisted by Edward Wood, Assistant City Solicitor and Saira McKechnie, Electoral Services Manager.

Martha Grekos (“the Objector”), had submitted the objection to the inclusion of the Respondent in the provisional Ward List. It was not disputed by the Objector that the Trust 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 (“the 2002 Act”) and that it was occupying the Premises for relevant purposes as owner or tenant.

It was initially disputed that the Respondent satisfied any of the conditions to be appointed as a voter by the Trust under section 5 of the 2002 Act. At a Ward List objection hearing last year, it had been established that the Respondent had been a member of the Board of the Trust since 2022, having been appointed by the City of London Corporation. He had therefore previously qualified under section 5(2) of the 2002 Act (the ‘twelve-month rule’). However, the Objector alleged that this appointment had ceased when the Respondent was

not re-elected as a Common Councilman in March 2025, prior to 1 September 2025 (the qualifying date).

Celine Lupp McDaid, The Hyde Director of the Trust ("the Interested Party") provided written representations prior to the hearing confirming that the Respondent had subsequently been reappointed as an independent Governor of the Trust. In response, the Objector submitted further correspondence welcoming the clarification provided by the Trust and expressing a desire to withdraw her objection. On this basis, neither the Objector, the Respondent nor the Interested Party attended the hearing.

I do not therefore consider that it has been established, on the balance of probabilities, that the Respondent ought to be removed. Accordingly, he will be included in the final Ward List for the Ward of Castle Baynard for 2026 – 2027.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Polly', with a long, wavy horizontal line extending to the right.

Polly Dunn
Assistant Town Clerk and
Executive Director of Governance and Member Services