

9, West Heath Road London NW3 7UX
Tel 0171 433 3434 Fax 0171 433 3934

Mr J Cantor
Fladgate Fielder
25 North Row
London
W1R 1DJ

24 May 1999

Dear Jonathan

The United Synagogue Eruv Committee

Thank you for your letter dated 18 May 1999 with its enclosure. I presume that you noticed the first name of the signatory. It might be interesting to ascertain what her background and affiliation is!

The letter raises a lot of important questions and perhaps needs to be addressed by the Office of the Chief Rabbi with reference to other Jewish religious appurtenances such as a mikveh. To us a mikveh and an eruv could be more important than a synagogue which is unnecessary for Jewish communal worship. I have never heard the distinction suggested by Miss Collard between "the advancement of a religion" and "the promotion of that religion". If ten Jews are praying in a private house, does the construction of a synagogue constitute a charitable activity since it merely enables the Jews to pursue in perhaps a more comfortable environment activities which they otherwise would pursue without such facilities? I cannot believe that Miss Collard is correct in her distinction in this respect as well as in her distinction with regard to education. I cannot understand why the dissemination of information cannot be charitable if it is to promote the education, for example, of members of a faith in their religious observances, even if it does not advance education in an academic sense.

For these reasons I believe we should involve an expert in charitable law as well as the Chief Rabbi's Office in writing a comprehensive reply to secure charitable status for this Company. It is of course essential.

With all good wishes

Yours sincerely

Graham Morris

cc: Brian Levy
 Edward Black
 Laurence Begner
 Syma Weinberg (Office of the Chief Rabbi)