

## **CLAS CIRCULAR**

### **2026/08 (18 May)**

#### **Disclaimer**

**CLAS is not qualified to advise on the legal and technical problems of members and does not undertake to do so. Though we take every care to provide a service of high quality, neither CLAS, the Secretary nor the Governors undertakes any liability for any error or omission in the information supplied.**

It would be very helpful if members could let us know of anything that appears to indicate developments of policy or practice on the part of Government or other matters of general concern that should be pursued.

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## FAITH AND SOCIETY

### Independent review into antisemitism: call for evidence

For information and **possibly for action**

[The independent review into antisemitism in schools and colleges](#), chaired by Sir David Bell, has launched a [call for evidence](#). It seeks views from people with relevant lived experience, knowledge or expertise of antisemitism in schools and colleges and will inform practical recommendations for the Department for Education and sector leaders on how effectively to prevent, identify and respond to antisemitism and other forms of hatred and prejudice.

You can submit evidence [here](#). The call for evidence ends on **1 July**.

[Source: Department for Education, 29 April]

### Funding to help councils tackle antisemitism

For information

Following recent attacks on the Jewish community, £1million expansion of MHCLG's Common Ground programme will support communities and places facing the greatest risk of antisemitism today. The additional funding expands the Common Ground programme – which is already providing more than £4 million to communities across the country. The Common Ground Resilience Fund was launched in September of 2025 to support local places: a key part of this is promoting the important role of the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector. The Award invests capital funding into VCSE sector organisations that are bringing people together from different backgrounds.

[Source: MHCLG, 5 May 2026]

### New Minister for Faith

For information

Nesil Caliskan, MP for Barking, has been appointed as the new Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Devolution, Faith and Communities at MHCLG, replacing Miatta Fahnbulleh, who resigned when calling for Keir Starmer to quit. Ms Caliskan, 37, was elected in 2024 and has spent the past eight months serving as Comptroller of the Household, the third most senior

government whip in the House of Commons. She is the ninth faith minister in ten years. Her Wiki entry says that she is the first MP of Turkish Cypriot heritage.

[Source: GOV.UK, 12 May]

**Webinar: investigations in faith-based organisations**



On **3 June at 12 noon**, Bates Wells is offering a webinar on common pitfalls during investigations in faith-based organisations:

“Alongside legal and procedural requirements, organisations must carefully navigate issues of trust, confidentiality, pastoral responsibility, and reputational risk during investigations. Join us to explore the practical steps you can take to avoid the most common pitfalls during investigations. This webinar will be useful to senior leadership and those responsible for safeguarding, governance or disciplinary processes in faith-based organisations.”

You can register [here](#).

[Source: Bates, Wells, 14 May]

## PROPERTY & PLANNING

### New obligations on landlords to supply information to tenants

For information and **possibly for action**

The Government has published [a note on changes to landlord and tenant law that took effect on 1 May 2026](#); *any member who rents housing to tenants should read this very carefully indeed.*

Possibly the most important new requirement is that landlords **must** give tenants written information about the terms of their tenancy:

- **for most tenancies that started before 1 May 2026**, landlords are required to send tenants a copy of the Government-produced [Renters' Rights Act Information Sheet](#), either digitally or on paper. **This must be done by 31 May 2026**: the penalty for failure to do so is a fine of up to £7000.
- **if there is no written record of the tenancy terms** – because, for example, the tenancy is based on a verbal agreement – the landlord must provide tenants with a written record of the specific terms of the agreement: the details of what must be included are [here](#).
- **for tenancies that started on or after 1 May 2026**, landlords must provide tenants with certain information about the tenancy in writing. This may be done via a written tenancy agreement: the details of what must be included are [here](#).

Bates Wells has just published a helpful note on [The Renters' Rights Act 2025: what faith-based charities need to know](#). It notes that the obligation to provide tenants with a copy of the Government's Renters' Rights Act Information Sheet applies "Even if tenants are clergy, missionaries, staff, volunteers, or service users ... unless the arrangement falls under very specific exemptions. It is safer to assume you must comply unless advised otherwise."

[Source: MHCLG, 15 May, Bates Wells, 18 May]

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**Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025: update**

For information

The Government has slightly updated its [Guidance on the Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Act 2025](#). It confirms at 4.37 that “Places of worship that can reasonably expect 200 or more individuals (including staff) to be present on the premises at the same time, from time to time, will be in scope of the standard tier, even if that number of expected individuals is 800 or more”.

[Source: Home Office, 13 May]