



London School of Jewish Studies

Over the last three decades, LSJS has been at the forefront of women's education in the UK – and we are proud that over 200 female teachers, all graduates of our institution, are now teaching and leading across our community. Advancing both women's Torah learning and leadership to the fullest extent possible in accordance with mainstream Orthodox practice is a fundamental part of LSJS's mission. As the Chief Rabbi has made clear, however, the ordination of women remains outside the boundaries of mainstream Orthodox practice, a position that we uphold at LSJS.

Having reflected on our established position and consulted widely, we are, however, pleased to clarify the following, which will enable Dr Taylor-Guthartz to continue her association with LSJS:

- (a) Each institution under the aegis of the Chief Rabbi has the discretion to invite lecturers of their choosing, to teach as part of their respective programmes.
- (b) LSJS, as the central body for training teachers in our community, has a remit that reaches beyond a religious function, providing high level academic studies through its degrees and teacher training programmes. The recent discussions concerning Dr Lindsey Taylor-Guthartz have challenged us to re-examine what it means to be dually a religious institution guided by the Chief Rabbi and also an academic institution, upholding its academic freedom.

Over the last two weeks the trustees of LSJS have conducted a review into the function of Research Fellows at LSJS. After consulting with a number of academics in leading orthodox Jewish institutions, including Bar Ilan University and Yeshiva University, we have concluded that our academic fellows are not religious appointments - and therefore should be made on the basis of academic merit. As such, we are delighted to restore Dr Taylor-Guthartz's academic Research Fellowship.

LSJS has always championed the dual path of the Bet Midrash and the Academy in order to study and teach traditional Judaism with intellectual rigour and profound reverence. Our trustees believe that this statement presents a positive way forward for our community.