This is Google's cache of <a href="http://highlandtitlesscam.com/twitter-trolls/">http://highlandtitlesscam.com/twitter-trolls/</a>. It is a snapshot of the page as it appeared on 12 Feb 2015 21:44:36 GMT. The <a href="current page">current page</a> could have changed in the meantime. <a href="Learn more">Learn more</a> Tip: To quickly find your search term on this page, press <a href="Ctrl+F">Ctrl+F</a> or <a href="#st-F">#-F</a> (Mac) and use the find bar.

<u>Text-only version</u>

## **Twitter Trolls**

As Twitter has become more central to the lives of its 500 million-plus users worldwide, so its problems with disruptive users have grown. There are now more than 500m tweets sent every day. Once its prime problem was spammers trying to push porn or gadgets, its newest problem is trolls – people who use their accounts to write abusive messages targeting individuals.

Highland Titles enjoyed a brief few hours of troll attention recently, kicked off by @loveandgarbage, who uses the presumably fake name, Bill Somebody and describes himself as "a Tv viewing reader who does law stuff." Clearly not Scottish law stuff as he started posting tweets showing a lack of such knowledge in response to a popular Highland Titles tweet.



As we explain elsewhere on this site, "Highland Titles Limited is a limited company registered in Alderney, No. 1599, and is wholly owned by the Highland Titles Charitable Trust for Scotland, which is a charity registered in Guernsey, Charity Number CH444."

- Since the 17th century there has been a register of land in Scotland has been tied
  - to registration. There is a complete history available here. If you are not registered as the owner of land, you can only have a personal right of ownership and if the land was usurped, your only redress would be against the registered landholder. Clearly then, nobody would purchase valuable property without ensuring that their status as owner was properly registered.
- Yet Registration is not the only way that an interest in the land can be taken. An ancient interest is in salmon fishings. A more modern unregistrable form of ownership is timeshares.
- The Land Registration (Scotland) Act 1979 has rules which prevent "souvenir plots" (that is to say small, uneconomic and essentially sentimental parcels of land) from being registered in Scot-

- land. Those rules continue in the Land Registration etc. (Scotland) Act 2012.
- The Highland Titles scheme operated relies on the fact that souvenir plots need not (indeed cannot) be registered. In Scottish land law, that does not represent outright ownership of land, but it is a personal right.
- Highland Titles has taken legal advice from two Scottish firms of solicitors to ensure that they operate within the law, and they state that position clearly on their website. The wording as used has been approved by the Advertising Standards Authority as Legal, Decent, Honest and True.

That should serve as background. Now, over to Twitter, where TV watching Bill Somebody @loveandgarbage replied to the promoted tweet above.



## Scottish Legal Advice









Highland Titles then tried to explain Scottish law to Bill, who was presumably distracted by Coronation Street





Twitter is scarcely a medium for conveying information, but fortunately it permits links to be embedded, so twice @highland\_titles sent a link to the legal advice concerning the way in which souvenir plots of land can be sold but not registered.







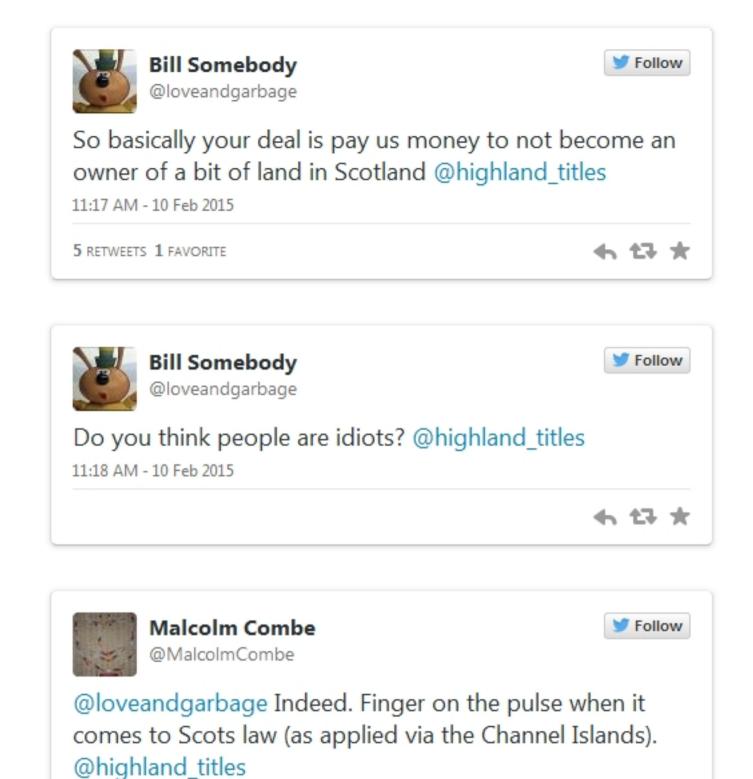


But Bill either failed to read the letter (it does contain some tricky words, being written by a Scottish lawyer) or decided that the arguments contained therein were unanswerable. Clearly Bill has some understanding of the way that houses are sold in Scotland (now they are quite valuable and are always registered), but clearly knows nothing about souvenir land.









Unable to come up with an intelligent argument for his now challenged point of view, Bill retreats to profanity and tries to muddy the waters by bringing up Barony titles (?? what??). So once again @highland\_titles tries to explain it to him and tweets the link again in the hope that Bill might stop watching the telly and take an interest in the subject matter.

4 17 \*

11:23 AM - 10 Feb 2015

1 FAVORITE





But as before Bill is only interested in starting his stuck record again and appeals to a friend to support him (not having any authoritative opinions of his own).

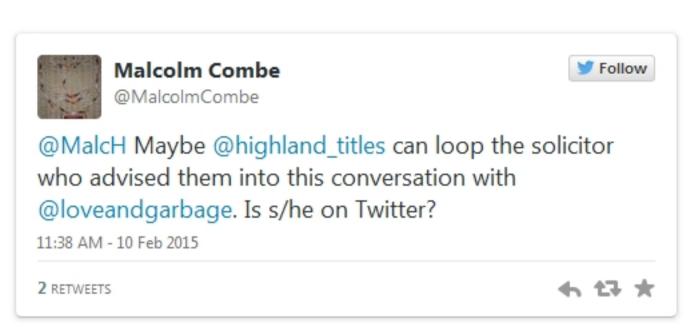




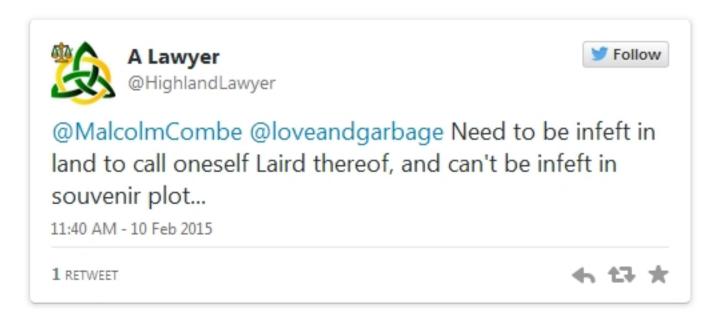














A.Lawyer then joins in the fun, posting completely inaccurate advice concerning the use of the laird title and then involves Lord Lyon, who has absolutely nothing to do with land law and precious little to do with the use of the laird title. Indeed we have sight of a letter from Lyon clarifying that very point to a Highland Titles customer.









And although the ignorant trolling continued, at this point @Highland\_Titles lost patience with Bill's refusal to discuss the subject and blocked him. A win for Highland Titles. Another troll outed and blocked. The main loser, perhaps, is Twitter that showed itself to be a poor forum for debate, but a forum full of Twits.

## 12 thoughts on "Twitter Trolls"

scotstatsFebruary 11, 2015 at 8:35 pm

I think it is perfectly clear here who is the twit ... and it's not @loveandgarbage

NIgelFebruary 11, 2015 at 8:44 pm

Ha Ha, that Billy Nobody @loveandgarbage is a wee bawbag

Brian Spanner (@BrianSpanner1)February 11, 2015 at 9:06 pm

how do!

Gareth Colwell (@GJ\_Colwell)February 11, 2015 at 9:12 pm

You do realise that by automatically calling some robust criticism 'trolling', you've pretty much destroyed your own argument? I'd suggest consulting your team of 'Scottish lawyers' before creating

silly blog posts like this in future....

Sarah J. February 11, 2015 at 10:31 pm

I love how loveandgarbage asks if the solicitor is even in Scotland, or if they do much conveyancing... clearly overlooking the fact that in their previous tweet to him Highland Titles linked to a letter from their scottish solicitor, who specialises in conveyancing! <a href="http://jandhmitchell.com/">http://jandhmitchell.com/</a> gotta love a troll looking stupid

sciencegirlFebruary 11, 2015 at 10:56 pm

Wait, so @highland\_titles guys are the trolls...right? Passive aggressive scammers need to learn to listen to the professionals.

AndyFebruary 11, 2015 at 11:02 pm

Crikey. Highland Titles, you're making yourself look awfully silly here. Apart from anything else, conducting yourself like a teenager on a world of warcraft forum is spectacularly bad PR.

And you're also clearly wrong, even to someone like me with minimal property law knowledge.

★ Laird GlencoeFebruary 12, 2015 at 8:19 pm

I think you missed the point here, you cannot expect Highland Titles to be Scottish lawyers as well as a conservation charity. They took legal advice from two firms of Scottish solicitors who are comfortable that they are selling souvenir plots. Highland Titles have published that advice. So, what should an ethical company do? Take the advice of their lawyers or the advice of anonymous twitter Twits with fake names.

David CamoronFebruary 11, 2015 at 11:18 pm

You might be right.

On the other hand "Bill Somebody" might be right.

One party is a firm of Highland Solicitirs who spend their very busy days selling land and the other party

