

Twitter Trolls

🕒 February 11, 2015 📁 Uncategorized 👤 Laird Glencoe

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



Bill Somebody
[@loveandgarbage](#)

[Follow](#)

No you can't. You're talking bollocks [@highland_titles](#)
Never heard of the rules prohibiting registration of
souvenir plots?

11:14 AM - 10 Feb 2015

2 FAVORITES



Bill Somebody
[@loveandgarbage](#)

[Follow](#)

I see your website says you get a personal right to the
plot [@highland_titles](#). You know that means you don't
own it?

11:17 AM - 10 Feb 2015





Malcolm Combe

@MalcolmCombe

Follow

@loveandgarbage ah, that just means you can transfer a wee plot without registration AT ALL. Because that makes sense. ;) @highland_titles

11:17 AM - 10 Feb 2015



Bill Somebody

@loveandgarbage

Follow

@MalcolmCombe I guess @highland_titles are well up on the 2012 Act and the implications of the 2000 ACt for barony titles.

11:20 AM - 10 Feb 2015



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



Highland Titles

@highland_titles

 Follow

Yes, the 2012 Act confirms the status of Souvenir plots -
sold without registration tinyurl.com/ohu7mqk
[@loveandgarbage](#) [@MalcolmCombe](#)

11:24 AM - 10 Feb 2015

1 FAVORITE



Highland Titles

@highland_titles

 Follow

We sell land. If you do not understand how land can be
sold in Scotland, ask a Scottish lawyer
tinyurl.com/ohu7mqk [@loveandgarbage](#)

11:23 AM - 10 Feb 2015

6 RETWEETS 4 FAVORITES



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.



Bill Somebody

@loveandgarbage

 Follow

I will [@highland_titles](#) . Hey, [@loveandgarbage](#) how do you sell land in Scotland?

11:24 AM - 10 Feb 2015

2 RETWEETS 8 FAVORITES



Bill Somebody

@loveandgarbage

 Follow

Well [@loveandgarbage](#) as a Scottish conveyance I am aware that the sale of land requires missives of sale then a conveyance [@highland_titles](#)

11:25 AM - 10 Feb 2015

3 RETWEETS 5 FAVORITES



Bill Somebody

@loveandgarbage

 Follow

And [@loveandgarbage](#) both require to be formally valid under the 1995 Act [@highland_titles](#) The conveyance is then sent for registration

11:26 AM - 10 Feb 2015

2 RETWEETS 3 FAVORITES



Bill Somebody

@loveandgarbage

 Follow

Registration is required because it is the only means to confer a real right to the land and in Scotland ownership is [@highland_titles](#)

11:27 AM - 10 Feb 2015

1 RETWEET 2 FAVORITES



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.



Bill Somebody

@loveandgarbage

 Follow

A real right, indeed the primary real right
[@highland_titles](#) and basically if you're not on the Land
or Sasine register you're not owner.

11:28 AM - 10 Feb 2015

1 RETWEET



Bill Somebody

@loveandgarbage

 Follow

when I suggested earlier you were talking bollocks
[@highland_titles](#) this is because, as a Scots conveyancer,
I see you're talking bollocks

11:30 AM - 10 Feb 2015

8 RETWEETS 15 FAVORITES



Bill Somebody

@loveandgarbage

 Follow

[@MalcolmCombe](#) I guess [@highland_titles](#) are well up
on the 2012 Act and the implications of the 2000 ACT for
barony titles.

11:20 AM - 10 Feb 2015





Bill Somebody

@loveandgarbage

 Follow

So basically your deal is pay us money to not become an owner of a bit of land in Scotland [@highland_titles](#)

11:17 AM - 10 Feb 2015

5 RETWEETS 1 FAVORITE



Bill Somebody

@loveandgarbage

 Follow

Do you think people are idiots? [@highland_titles](#)

11:18 AM - 10 Feb 2015



Malcolm Combe

@MalcolmCombe

 Follow

[@loveandgarbage](#) Indeed. Finger on the pulse when it comes to Scots law (as applied via the Channel Islands). [@highland_titles](#)

11:23 AM - 10 Feb 2015

1 FAVORITE



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.



Highland Titles

@highland_titles

 Follow

If Souvenir plots had to be registered, the extra cost would be prohibitive tinyurl.com/ohu7mqk

[@loveandgarbage](#)

11:26 AM - 10 Feb 2015

1 RETWEET 1 FAVORITE



Highland Titles

@highland_titles

 Follow

Thank you for your opinion, Bill. We prefer to take the advice of an actual Scottish solicitor

tinyurl.com/ohu7mqk [@loveandgarbage](#)

11:31 AM - 10 Feb 2015

11 RETWEETS 4 FAVORITES



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).



Bill Somebody

@loveandgarbage

 Follow

You are only making yourselves look very stupid
[@highland_titles](#) . what say you [@malcolmcombe](#)?

11:33 AM - 10 Feb 2015

2 RETWEETS 2 FAVORITES



Malcolm Combe

@MalcolmCombe

 Follow

Hi there [@highland_titles](#). I agree with Bill.
[@loveandgarbage](#)

11:33 AM - 10 Feb 2015

2 RETWEETS 5 FAVORITES



Bill Somebody

@loveandgarbage

 Follow

I'm going to suggest I have a closer familiarity with the
law relating to feudal abolition and land transfer than
you [@highland_titles](#)

11:34 AM - 10 Feb 2015

2 RETWEETS 6 FAVORITES



Bill Somebody

@loveandgarbage

 Follow

Hang on [@highland_titles](#) I'll ask [@ianssmart](#) who is a
former President of the Law society. Ian, is my analysis of
land transfers accurate?

11:36 AM - 10 Feb 2015

1 RETWEET 3 FAVORITES



And again, Bill looks for support from Twitter friends, who are clearly as ill informed and belligerent as Bill.



Ian Smart

@ianssmart

Follow

@loveandgarbage @highland_titles I am happy to confirm that it is.

11:58 AM - 10 Feb 2015

2 RETWEETS 8 FAVORITES



Malcolm Combe

@MalcolmCombe

Follow

@MalcH Maybe @highland_titles can loop the solicitor who advised them into this conversation with @loveandgarbage. Is s/he on Twitter?

11:38 AM - 10 Feb 2015

2 RETWEETS



Bill Somebody

@loveandgarbage

Follow

Or in Scotland ? @MalcolmCombe @MalcH @highland_titles Do they do much Conveyancing?

11:39 AM - 10 Feb 2015

1 RETWEET 1 FAVORITE



A Lawyer

@HighlandLawyer

Follow

@MalcolmCombe @loveandgarbage Need to be infekt in land to call oneself Laird thereof, and can't be infekt in souvenir plot...

11:40 AM - 10 Feb 2015

1 RETWEET





Bill Somebody

@loveandgarbage

 Follow

Look @highland_titles here's another Scottish lawyer agreeing with us @HighlandLawyer @MalcolmCombe

11:43 AM - 10 Feb 2015



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.



A Lawyer

@HighlandLawyer

 Follow

@loveandgarbage @highland_titles @MalcolmCombe
Wonder what Court of Lord Lyon has to say about it... oh
look lyon-court.com/lordlyon/776.h...

11:44 AM - 10 Feb 2015

6 RETWEETS 1 FAVORITE



Bill Somebody

@loveandgarbage

 Follow

The actual Lord Lyon says that @HighlandLawyer ?
Wonder what @highland_titles 's actual Scottish solicitor
makes of it ? @MalcolmCombe

11:47 AM - 10 Feb 2015

2 RETWEETS



Bill Somebody

@loveandgarbage

 Follow

Hang on @highland_titles we could ask the Regius
Professor of Scots law at Glasgow Uni if he agrees with
us @MalcolmCombe. @profChalmers?

11:46 AM - 10 Feb 2015





Bill Somebody

@loveandgarbage



Woe is me @highland_titles have blocked me. And they've blocked @malcolmcombe too for knowing more about Scottish conveyancing law than them

11:58 AM - 10 Feb 2015

3 RETWEETS 3 FAVORITES



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"

scotstats February 11, 2015 at 8:35 pm

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

Nigel February 11, 2015 at 8:44 pm

Ha 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! <http://jandhmitchell.com/> gotta love a troll looking stupid 😊

sciencegirl February 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.

Andy February 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 Glencoe February 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 Camoron February 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

has a fake name and nothing to do with their very busy days but tweet.

I just can't decide.

Greg February 12, 2015 at 1:08 pm

Hate to break it to you guys, but you're in the wrong here. You don't have a valid and registrable title if it isn't registered in either the Sasine Register or the Land Register.

★ Laird Glencoe February 12, 2015 at 8:27 pm

Thank you for your valuable opinion. I will just file it safely in this circular filing tray...

Jimmy Mac February 12, 2015 at 7:28 pm

That is funny, Twitter trolls going up against a firm of Scottish lawyers. Like that's gonna work. I think everyone would agree that highland titles was the winner here lol