

Practice Note 23 – Declarations: the solution when all else fails

In some cases, it is obvious that the document you have been asked to notarise cannot be independently verified, or be the subject of a notarial act without further enquiry – if at all. For example;

- a set of personal accounts prepared by the applicant's accountant;
- a C.V. prepared by, and relating to, the applicant;
- copies of email correspondence between the applicant and another party, printed from the applicant's printer;
- documents relating to the emigration of a parrot (true story).

There may be cases where, on making enquires, you are sufficiently satisfied to confirm the authenticity of the document *to the best of your knowledge and belief* (and to specify in your certificate, accordingly). If not, the applicant will thank you for suggesting an alternative solution.

A useful option is to draft a simple declaration in the name of the applicant, in which the applicant confirms and declares the authenticity of the documents attached. The declaration can then be notarised in the usual manner. It is advisable for the applicant to check in advance with the receiving party, that this solution will be acceptable.