

Statutes and Ordinances have from time to time been made and ordained by His said late Majesty, or by His Heirs and Successors, for the government of the said Order, by which Statutes, or some of them, the number of the Companions of the said Order hath been increased from thirty-six, as prescribed by the said recited Letters Patent, to a much greater number, and whereby the said Companions of the said Order have been divided into three classes, differing each from the other in rank and privileges; and whereas doubts have arisen whether such changes as aforesaid in the laws and constitution of the said Order, in so far as they contravene any of the provisions of the said recited Letters Patent, could lawfully be made by such Statutes as aforesaid, and ought not to have been made by other Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom aforesaid; and it is expedient that such doubts should be removed: and whereas it is also expedient that other changes should now be made in the constitution of the said Order, with a view to the adaptation thereof to the altered state and circumstances of society within the United Kingdom aforesaid, and Our dominions beyond the seas: now, therefore, know ye, that We, of Our mere motion, special grace, and certain knowledge, have revoked and abrogated, and do hereby revoke and abrogate, so much of the said recited Letters Patent as limits to the number of thirty-six the Companions of the said Order of the Bath, and as declares the said Order to be exclusively a Military Order of Knighthood: and We do hereby further ordain, direct, and appoint, that the said Order shall henceforth be known and described by the style and designation of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath.

And We do further ordain, direct, and appoint, that the said Order shall consist of the Sovereign and a Great Master, and of nine hundred and fifty-two Companions or Members, to be divided into three such classes as hereinafter mentioned.

And We do hereby ordain, direct, and appoint, that We, Our Heirs and Successors, Kings or Queens Regnant of the United Kingdom aforesaid, shall be Sovereigns of the said Order.

And We do further ordain, direct, and appoint, that a Prince of the Blood Royal, or such other exalted personage as We, Our Heirs and Successors, shall hereafter appoint, shall be Great Master of the said Order, and shall, in virtue thereof, be the First or Principal Knight Grand Cross of the said Order.

And We do further ordain, direct and appoint, that the said nine hundred and fifty-two Members shall be divided into three classes, and that of the said three classes, the first or highest class shall consist of seventy-five Members, to be styled or designated Knights Grand Cross of the said Order; and that the second class shall consist of one hundred and fifty-two Members, to be styled and designated Knights Commanders of the said Order; and that the third or lowest class shall consist of seven hundred and twenty-five Members, to be styled and designated Companions of the said Order.

Provided, nevertheless, and We do further ordain, direct and appoint, that if at any time hereafter any occasion should arise, rendering expedient any increase to the number of Members comprised in all or any of the classes of the said Order, it shall be competent to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, by any Statute or Statutes to be hereafter made, in the manner and form for that purpose prescribed in and by the said recited Letters Patent, to authorize any such increase of the number of Members of any such class or classes, any inconsistency of any such Statute or Statutes with these presents to the contrary notwithstanding.

And We do further ordain, direct, and appoint, that such persons only shall be competent to be Members of any of the said three classes, as shall possess the qualifications to be for that purpose defined in any Statute or Statutes to be hereafter made, in the manner and form for that purpose prescribed in and by the said recited Letters Patent.

Provided always, and We do further ordain, direct, and appoint, that no such Statute so to be made as aforesaid shall be of any force or authority, unless before the actual making and promulgation thereof We shall have signified to the Great Master of the said Order, by a Warrant under Our Signet and Sign Manual, countersigned by one of Our Principal Secretaries of State, Our pleasure that the same should be so made and promulgated.

And We do further direct, ordain, and appoint, that when and so often as any person shall hereafter be appointed to be a Member of the said Order, such appointment shall be made in the manner following, that is to say, that the name of every such candidate being laid before Us, or Our Heirs and Successors, by one of Our or Their Principal Secretaries of State, the pleasure of Us, or Our Heirs and Successors, respecting the appointment of any such candidate, shall by Us or Them be thereupon signified to such Secretary of State; and when and so often as We, or Our Heirs and Successors, shall so have signified Our pleasure in favour of the appointment of any such candidate, it shall be the duty of such Our or Their Secretary of State to prepare, for the approbation and signature of Us, or Our Heirs and Successors, a Warrant, addressed to the Great Master of the said Order for the time being, for the appointment of any such candidate, which Warrant, being first countersigned by the Secretary of State preparing the same, shall be the full and final authority to the said Great Master for preparing for the signature of Us, or Our Heirs and Successors, and for laying before Us or Them to be signed, and for sealing with the seal of the said Order when so signed, a grant or authority from Us, or Our Heirs and Successors, to each and every such candidate to be a Member of the said Order, and to have, exercise, and enjoy all the dignity, rank, and privileges thereunto appertaining, according to the class to which each such candidate shall so be appointed.