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## State Intelligence

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### PROCLAMATION

The QUEEN has been pleased to issue Her Majesty's Letters Patent under the Great Seal of The Realm in the form following:

**ELIZABETH THE SECOND**, By the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith:

To the Commissioners more particularly described hereinafter and all other Our faithful Subjects whatsoever to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas Our right trusty and well beloved Counsellor Quintin McGarel Baron Hailsham of St. Marylebone, Our Chancellor of Great Britain, hath humbly besought Us to grant to him and his successors in office (the holder for the time being of the said office being hereinafter called Our Chancellor) leave to be absent from Our United Kingdom from time to time during Our Pleasure, and We are graciously pleased to assent to his request;

And Whereas We deem it expedient to commit to the Commissioners constituted by and for the purposes of these Presents (hereinafter called Our Commissioners) the custody of Our Great Seal of Our Realm (hereinafter called Our Great Seal) during any such absence of Our Chancellor, save when it is in Our custody;

And Whereas We further deem it expedient to commit to Our Commissioners during any vacancy that may in future occur in the office of Our Chancellor (save when Our Great Seal is in Our custody) both the custody of Our Great Seal and all other powers, duties and functions of Our Chancellor, except those appertaining to his office as Speaker of Our House of Lords;

Know Ye That We do hereby grant leave to Our Chancellor to be absent from Our United Kingdom from time to time during Our Pleasure, until we give further order or direction to the contrary, to the intent that such leave shall not determine by the return of Our Chancellor to Our United Kingdom, but shall endure and be a continuing leave to Our Chancellor to be absent from Our United Kingdom from time to time;

And That We do hereby constitute as Our Commissioners for the purposes of these Presents the holders for the time being of the offices listed in the Schedule annexed hereto;

And That We do hereby commit to Our Commissioners: during any absence of Our Chancellor from Our United Kingdom in pursuance of Our leave hereinbefore

granted, the custody of Our Great Seal and the responsibility for passing under it all such things as have ordinarily been used to be sealed with it; and

during any vacancy that may occur in the office of Our Chancellor, both the custody of Our Great Seal as aforesaid and also all other powers, duties and functions of Our Chancellor except those appertaining to his office as Speaker of Our House of Lords;

Provided that:

upon the return of Our Chancellor to Our United Kingdom after any absence therefrom in pursuance of Our leave hereinbefore granted, Our Commissioners shall immediately recommit to Our Chancellor the custody of Our Great Seal without any further Commission, warrant or authority in that respect; but that

this Our Commission shall not be determined by the return of Our Chancellor to Our United Kingdom, or by the recommitment to him of Our Great Seal, or by its commitment after a vacancy in the office of Our Chancellor to a new holder of that office, but, until We give further order or direction to the contrary, this Our Commission shall endure and be a continuing Commission operating during any further absence of Our Chancellor from Our United Kingdom and during any further vacancy that may occur in his office; save, however, that

nothing in this Commission shall operate to commit the custody of Our Great Seal, or any other power, duty or function of Our Chancellor, to Our Commissioners, during any time when Our Great Seal is in Our custody;

And We do hereby declare that:

during any period when, by virtue of these Presents, the custody of Our Great Seal stands committed to Our Commissioners, any two of Our Commissioners may pass or cause to be passed under Our Great Seal any thing which ought so to pass; and

during any period when, by virtue of these Presents, other powers, duties and functions of Our Chancellor stand committed to Our Commissioners, those powers, duties and functions may be exercised by any three Commissioners who hold any of the following offices, that is to say:

the Lord Chief Justice of England;  
the Lord President of Our Privy Council;  
the Keeper of Our Privy Seal;  
the Master of the Rolls;  
the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland;