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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 all Archbishops Dukes Marquesses Earls Viscounts Bishops Barons Baronets Knights Citizens and Burgesses and all other Our faithful Subjects whatsoever to whom these Presents shall come Greeting Whereas it is Our intention to be absent from Our United Kingdom for the purpose of visiting Australia

And Whereas by the enactments known as the Regency Acts 1937 to 1953 it is (amongst other things) enacted that in the event of Our absence or intended absence from Our United Kingdom We may in order to prevent delay or difficulty in the despatch of public business by Letters Patent under the Great Seal delegate for the period of that absence to Counsellors of State such of Our Royal functions (except the power to dissolve Parliament otherwise than on Our express instructions and the power to grant any rank title or dignity of the peerage) as may be specified in the Letters Patent And Whereas the persons described by the said enactments as the Counsellors of State to be named in such Letters Patent are as follows that is to say Our most dearly beloved Husband and most faithful Counsellor Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh Our most dearly beloved Mother Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Our most dearly beloved Son and most faithful Counsellor Charles Philip Arthur George Prince of Wales Knight of Our Most Noble Order of the Garter Knight of Our Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle Great Master and the First or Principal Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath Our most dearly beloved Daughter Princess Anne Elizabeth Alice Louise Mrs. Mark Philips Dame Grand Cross of Our Royal Victorian Order Our most dear and entirely beloved Sister Princess Margaret Rose Countess of Snowdon Lady of the Imperial Order of the Crown of India Dame Grand Cross of Our Royal Victorian Order and Our most dear and entirely beloved Cousin Prince Richard Alexander Walter George Duke of Gloucester Knight Grand Cross of Our Royal Victorian Order subject however to provisions enabling Us by the Letters Patent

to except from among the number of those Counsellors any person who is absent from Our United Kingdom or intends to be so absent during the period of Our absence Know Ye that by virtue of the said enactments We do hereby delegate for the period of Our absence to the said Counsellors of State (except during their absence from Our United Kingdom those who are or intend to be so absent) the Royal functions specified in the First Schedule annexed hereto to be exercised jointly by not less than two of their number subject to the following exceptions and conditions namely That they the said Counsellors of State shall not have power to dissolve Parliament otherwise than on Our express instructions or to grant any rank title or dignity of the peerage That they shall not receive any homage required to be done to Ourselves That they shall not approve or sign any warrant fiat submission or other document for which Our approval or signature is required for or in connection with any of the matters described in the Second Schedule annexed hereto and That if We signify or it appears to them that they should not act in any matter or for any purpose without Our previous special approval they shall not act in that matter or for that purpose without that approval Commanding all and singular Archbishops Dukes Marquesses Earls Viscounts Bishops Barons Baronets Knights Citizens and Burgesses and all other Our Officers Ministers and Subjects that in everything appertaining to the matters aforesaid they be attendant counselling and helping the said Counsellors of State as it behoves them in Witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent Witness Ourselves at Westminster the twenty-first day of May in the twenty-ninth year of Our Reign

By Warrant under The Queen's Sign Manual.

Bourne

THE FIRST SCHEDULE

The Delegated Royal Functions

Full power and authority during the period of Our said absence—

To summon and hold on Our behalf Our Privy Council and to signify thereat Our approval for anything for which Our approval in Council is required

To approve and sign on Our behalf Letters Patent signifying the Royal Assent to Acts of Parliament except any Act touching any of the matters for which provision is made in the Act of Settlement or touching Our Royal Style and Titles