

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 James Peter Hymers Baron Mackay of Clashfern, 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, if at any time and for so long as Our Chancellor is by reason of ill-health or for any other reason temporarily incapable of exercising the powers, duties and functions of his office, to commit to Our Commissioners both the custody of Our Great Seal (save when it is in Our custody) and also all other his powers, duties and functions, except those appertaining to his office as Speaker of Our House of Lords;

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 both the custody of Our Great Seal (save when it is in Our custody) and also 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 following offices, that is to say:-

- The Lord President of Our Privy Council
- The Keeper of Our Privy Seal
- The Chairman of Committees of Our House of Lords
- The Lord Chief Justice of England
- The Master of the Rolls
- The Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland
- The President of the Family Division of Our High Court of Justice
- The Vice-Chancellor of the Chancery Division of Our High Court of Justice
- The Lords Justices of Our Court of Appeal
- The Justices of Our High Court of Justice

AND THAT We do hereby commit to Our said 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 time when Our Chancellor is, whether by reason of ill-health or for any other reason, temporarily incapable of exercising the powers, duties and functions of his office, such incapacity to be certified by instrument under the hand of Our Prime Minister, until such time as Our Prime Minister shall by like instrument certify that Our Chancellor is again able to exercise his powers, duties and functions, or 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, or upon receiving an instrument under the hand of Our Prime Minister certifying that Our Chancellor, after a period of temporary incapacity, is again able to exercise the powers, duties and functions of his office, 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, during any further temporary incapacity of Our Chancellor 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 being the holders of the following offices, that is to say:-

The Lord President of Our Privy Council

The Keeper of Our Privy Seal

The Lord Chief Justice of England

The Master of the Rolls

The Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland

The President of the Family Division of Our High Court of Justice

The Vice-Chancellor of the Chancery Division of Our High Court of
Justice

provided that the Lord Chief Justice of England or the Master of the Rolls may represent Our Chancellor where he is required to countersign a Royal Warrant of Appointment, or where any person appointed as a Lord Justice of Appeal or Puisne Judge of Our High Court, or as a Circuit Judge, is required to take the oath of allegiance and the judicial oath in his presence or before him;

In Witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent Witness
Herself at Westminster the thirty-first day of January in the thirty-seventh
year of Our Reign

BY THE QUEEN HERSELF

OULTON