

# THE ROYAL CHARTER OF THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION

*This version of the Royal Charter is the original Charter of 4th January 1912 as amended by Supplemental Charters dated 28th March 1949, 18th February 1959, 5th May 1967 and 19th July 1991.*

*The Charter presented below derives from the original Charter and includes the insertions and substitutions contained in the four Supplemental Charters.*

George the Fifth by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, to all whom these Presents shall come Greeting

WHEREAS it has been represented to us -

- (i.) That the Boy Scouts are an unincorporated organization founded in the year 1908 by Lieutenant General Sir Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., for the purpose of instructing boys of all classes in the principles of discipline loyalty and good citizenship.
- (ii.) That the said organization has branches throughout Our Dominions and is carried on under Our patronage and is governed by a Council and has its affairs managed and regulated by an Executive Committee appointed by the Council.
- (iii.) That the said organization is possessed of stocks of literature and equipment useful for the purpose of the said organization and also certain investments and sums of money derived from the sale of such literature and equipment and from voluntary subscriptions.
- (iv.) That the said organization is possessed of certain leasehold offices at I 1 6-118 Victoria Street in the City of Westminster but save as aforesaid is possessed of no freehold or leasehold property.
- (v.) That it will greatly promote and facilitate the work of the said organization if the same is incorporated by this Our Charter and that it will be expedient that the said organization when so incorporated shall have such powers and be subject to such conditions as are hereinafter contained.
- (vi.) That a draft of Bye Laws for the management of the affairs of the said organization when so incorporated has been submitted to and approved by a specially convened meeting of the said Council and a copy of such draft has for the purpose of identification been signed by the said Sir Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell K.C.B., K.C.V.O.
- (vii.) That it has been resolved at a specially convened meeting of the said Council that if and when this Our Charter shall have been granted the assets of every description belonging to or held in trust for the said organization or for the use of the said organization in the furtherance of any object thereof shall be transferred to and vested in the organization so incorporated subject nevertheless to the organization so incorporated thereout defraying and providing for all debts and liabilities (if any) then incurred by or on behalf of the said existing organization to the discharge of which the said assets may at the moment of such transfer and vesting be applicable.

AND WHEREAS Lieutenant General Sir Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell K.C.B., K.C.V.O. The Right Honourable Richard Everard Baron Alverstone P.C., G.C.M.G. The Right

Honourable John Baron Avebury P.C. Admiral Lord Charles William Delapoe Beresford G.C.B., G.C.V.O., M.P. Charles Churchill Branch Esquire Colonel Henry Studholme Brownrigg Sir Thomas Lauder Brunton, Baronet The Most Reverend Father in God Randall Thomas

by Divine Providence Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, P.C., G.C.V.O., D.D. The Reverend William Dale Colonel Ulick George Campbell de Burgh C.B. Sir Matthew Blayney Smith-Dodsworth Baronet Lieutenant General Sir Edmond Roche Elles, G.C.I.E., K.C.B. Sir Charles Alfred Elliott K.C.S.I., since deceased, Henry Geoffrey Elwes Esquire Percy Winn Everett Esquire The Reverend Marshall Hartley The Right Reverend The Lord Bishop of Kensington D.D. Sir John Kirk Major General Sir Ronald Bertram Lane K.C.V.O., C.B. The Honourable Henry Lawson Webster Lawson M.P. Sir George Watson Macalpine The Right Honourable Reginald Earl of Meath K.P., P.C. The Most Noble Henry Duke of Norfolk K.G., P.C., G.C.V.O. The Reverend William Perkins Francis William Pixley Esquire Lieutenant General Sir Herbert Charles Onslow Plumer K.C.B. Field Marshal The Right Honourable Frederick Sleigh Earl Roberts K.G., K.P., P.C., G.C.B., O.M., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., V.C. The Right Honourable Archibald Philip Earl of Rosebury K.G., K.T., P.C. The Right Honourable Anthony Earl of Shaftesbury K.P., K.C.V.O. The Reverend William Henry Greaves Twining and The Most Reverend Father in God Cosmo Gordon by Divine Providence Lord Archbishop of York P.C., D.D. all of whom are members of the said Council on behalf of themselves and all other members of the said Council have humbly besought Us to grant this Our Charter.

NOW THEREFORE KNOW YE that We being always ready to give Our Royal countenance and encouragement to all useful and charitable works do of our special grace certain knowledge and mere motion by these presents for Us Our Heirs and Successors give grant and ordain that Lieutenant General Sir Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell K.C.B., K.C.V.O. The Right Honourable Richard Everard Baron Alverstone P.C., G.C. M.G. The Right Honourable John Baron Avebury P.C. Admiral Lord Charles William Delapoe Beresford, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., M.P., Charles Churchill Branch Esquire Colonel Henry Studholme Brownrigg Sir Thomas Lauder Brunton, Baronet, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. The Most Reverend Father in

God Randall Thomas by Divine Providence Lord Archbishop of Canterbury P.C., G.C.V.0., D.D. The Reverend William Dale Colonel Utick George Campbell de Burgh C.B. Sir Matthew Blayney Smith-Dodsworth Baronet Lieutenant General Sir Edmond Roche Elles G.C.I.E., K.C.B. Henry Geoffrey Elwes Esquire Percy Winn Everett Esquire The Reverend Marshall Hartley The Right Reverend The Lord Bishop of Kensington D.D. Sir John Kirk Major General Sir Ronald Bertram Lane K.C.V.0., C.B. The Honourable Harry Lawson Webster Lawson M.P. Sir George Watson Macalpine The Right Honourable Reginald Earl of Meath K.P., P.C. The Most Noble Henry Duke of Norfolk K.G., P.C., G.C.V.0. The Reverend William Perkins Francis William Pixley Esquire Lieutenant General Sir Herbert Charles Onslow Plumer K.C.B. Field Marshal the Right Honourable Frederick Sleigh Earl Roberts K.G., K.P., P.C., G.C.B., O.M., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., V.C. The Right Honourable Archibald Philip Earl of Rosebury K.G., K.T., P.C. The Right Honourable Anthony Earl of Shaftesbury K.P., K.C.V.0. The Reverend William Henry Greaves Twining and The Most Reverend Father in God Cosmo Gordon by Divine Providence Lord Archbishop of York P.C., D.D. and another persons who are now or shall in accordance with the Rules of the Association hereby incorporated become members of the Council thereof shall be one body corporate and politic by the name of "The Scout Association" for the purpose of promoting the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities and by that name shall and may sue and be sued plead and be impleaded in all Courts whether of law or equity either in Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland or in Our Colonies or Dependencies and shall have perpetual succession and a common seal which may be changed or varied by it at its pleasure.

AND WE DO HEREBY FURTHER GRANT AND ORDAIN that the said Association hereby incorporated shall have and may exercise all or any of the powers hereinafter mentioned and shall be entitled to the benefit of and be subject to the provisions hereinafter contained and such provisions shall have effect accordingly.

1.- In this Charter unless the context otherwise requires -

"The Association" shall mean The Scout Association.

"The Bye Laws" shall mean the Bye Laws of the Association for the time being in force under or by virtue of this Charter.

"The Patron" "The President" "The Council" and "The Chairman of the Council" shall mean respectively the Patron of the Association the President of the Association the Council of the Association and the Chairman of the Council for the time being in accordance with this Charter or the Bye Laws.

"The Committee" shall mean the Committee for the time being appointed under or in accordance with the Bye Laws or such number of the members of such Committee as under the Bye Laws shall for the time being be entitled to act for such Committee.

Words importing the singular number only shall include the plural number and vice versa and words importing persons shall include Corporations.

Words in this Our Charter and in the Bye Laws importing the male gender only shall include the female gender and vice versa.

2. The Association shall have power -

(i.) Deleted by the Supplemental Charter dated 5th May 1967.

(ii.) To purchase take on lease or hire or otherwise acquire and hold any lands buildings easements or hereditaments of any tenure patents patent rights trade marks and any other real or personal property and to construct provide maintain repair and alter any buildings works stores plant and things which may from time to time be deemed requisite whether within Our Dominions or elsewhere for any of the purposes of the Association.

iii.) To form local branches and committees in all parts of Our Dominions and to organise classes and lectures and publish and sell or distribute papers books pamphlets and information for the purpose of stimulating interesting and promoting the objects of the Association and to take all other measures which may seem necessary for providing and maintaining an efficient organization for the purposes of the Association.

(iv.) To form bodies of Scouts and to enrol as members or officers thereof persons of all ages and classes and to supply (with or without charge) and deal in equipment of all kinds for their use and to procure them to be instructed in the duties of citizenship generally and in handicrafts and technical knowledge and to provide classes lectures and entertainments for their benefit and to establish and provide prizes badges certificates and other rewards of merit to be competed for or awarded to them provided that Scouts shall be left entirely free to obtain their equipment and every part thereof (whether of an official pattern or not) other than badges and decorations from any person firm or corporation willing to supply the same\* shall not be required to obtain such equipment or any part thereof from the Association.

\* *Obvious clerical omission of the word "and" after the word "same" in original charter.*

(v.) To assist past or present Scouts in establishing themselves in life whether by means of apprenticeship or emigration or in any other manner and to form contribute to and administer special funds for that purpose.

- (vi.) To receive and accept donations endowments and gifts of money lands hereditaments stocks funds shares securities and any other assets whatsoever and either subject or not subject to any special trusts or conditions and in particular to accept and take by way of gift and absorb upon any terms the undertaking and assets of any society or body whether incorporated or not carrying on work similar to any work for the time being carried on by the Association and to undertake all or any of the liabilities of any such other society or body.
- (vii.) To borrow or raise money with or without security for any of the purposes of the Association.
- (viii.) To make and carry out any arrangement for joint working or co-operation with any other society or body whether incorporated or not carrying on work similar to any work for the time being carried on by the Association.
- (ix.) To undertake execute and perform any trusts or conditions affecting any real or personal property of any description acquired by the Association.
- (x.) To enter into any arrangements with any military or educational authorities or any other department of Our Imperial Government or of the Government of any part of Our Dominions.
- (xi.) To apply for and exercise any powers obtained under any supplementary Charter or Act of Parliament Imperial or Colonial and whether Federal or Provincial which may be deemed expedient for any of the purposes of the Association.
- (xii.) To accumulate sell improve manage develop exchange lease mortgage or otherwise dispose of or deal with or turn to account all or any property or rights of the Association. Provided that no disposition of any real or leasehold property situate in the United Kingdom shall be made without such consent or approval as may be by law required therefor.
- (xiii.)
  - (a) To invest and deal with the moneys of the Association not immediately required for the said objects and purposes nor subject to specific trusts in the purchase of or at interest upon the security of such stocks, funds, shares, securities or other investments of whatsoever nature as the Association shall in its absolute discretion think fit to the intent that the Association shall have the same full and unrestricted powers of investing and transposing investments in all respects as if the Association were absolutely entitled to such moneys beneficially.
  - (b) To employ as a private investment manager any person or firm entitled to carry on investment business under the provisions of the Financial Services Act 1986 or any amending legislation and to delegate to any such manager ("the Manager") the exercise of all or any of the Association's powers of investment in such terms and at such reasonable remuneration as the Association may think fit but subject always to the following conditions:
    - (1) The delegated powers shall be exercisable only within clear policy guidelines drawn up in advance by the Association and within the powers of investment conferred by sub-paragraph (a) of this Article;
    - (2) Every transaction carried out by the Manager under delegated powers shall be reported to the Association within fourteen days;
    - (3) The Association shall be entitled at any time and without notice to review revoke or alter the delegation or the terms thereof,
    - (4) The Association shall be bound to review the for delegation at least once every twelve months;
    - (5) The Association shall be liable for the acts and defaults of the Manager in the exercise of the delegated powers in the same manner as if they were the acts and defaults of the Association.
- (xiv.) To grant continue and pay such salaries pensions gratuities or other sums in recognition of services (whether rendered before or after the granting of this Charter) as may from time to time be sanctioned by the Committee.
- (xv.) To do all such other acts and things as are or may be deemed incidental or conducive to the attainment of any of the purposes of the Association or the exercise of any of its said powers.

3. There shall be a Patron of the Association.

WE do hereby reserve to Ourselves to be the First Patron. Subsequent Patrons from time to time shall be such persons as may accept that office upon the request of the Council with the approval of the President.

The President shall be such person as may from time to time be nominated in that behalf by the Patron.

The Chairman of the Council shall be the said Sir Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell K.C.B., K.C.V.O. and after he shall have died or retired or ceased to be a member of the Council shall be such person as may from time to time be nominated in that behalf by the Council. The first Council shall consist of those persons who were members of the Council of the said now existing organization immediately before the granting of this Our Charter.

As from the first day of July in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine the Council of the Association shall consist of six hundred members at the most and three hundred members at the least who shall be appointed or elected as prescribed by the Bye Laws.

A Committee may be appointed in such manner and with such powers and duties as may be prescribed by or in accordance with the Bye Laws,

4. An Ordinary General Meeting of the Council shall be held once in every year after the year in which the Association is incorporated at such time and place as shall be prescribed by or in accordance with the Bye Laws and the Committee shall lay before such Ordinary General Meeting such accounts and make such reports as may from time to time be prescribed by the Bye Laws.
5. An Extraordinary Meeting of the Council may be called at any time by the President or by the Chairman of the Council.
6. The accounts to be submitted to any Ordinary General Meeting of the Council shall be audited by auditors who shall be members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants or of such other Association as for the time being shall in the opinion of the Committee represent that Institute.
7. The affairs of the Association shall be managed and regulated in accordance with Bye Laws in the terms of the said draft Bye Laws so approved by the Council of the said existing organization as aforesaid or with such other Bye Laws as may for the time being be in force under or by virtue of the succeeding provisions of this clause. Any of the Bye Laws may from time to time be altered added to or repealed by the Council and any new Bye Laws may from time to time be made in the like manner. Provided that no new Bye Law and no alteration of or addition to any of the Bye Laws shall have any force or effect if it be repugnant to any of the provisions of this Charter or to the Laws of Our Realm nor until it shall have been approved by the Lords of Our Privy Council of which approval a Certificate under the hand of the Clerk of the Council shall be conclusive evidence.
8. And We do hereby further declare that when the Association shall cease to be an Association for the purpose aforesaid and the affairs thereof shall have been completely wound up and its debts and obligations fully discharged this our Charter shall be absolutely void.
- 8A. The Council may by resolution passed by three-quarters of the Members present and voting add to, alter or revoke any of the provisions of this Our Charter or of any Supplemental Charter granted to the Association, provided that no such addition, alteration or revocation shall be of effect unless and until it shall have been approved by Us, Our Heirs or Successors in Council.
9. And We do for Ourselves Our Heirs and successors grant and declare that this Charter or the enrolment thereof shall be in all things valid and effectual in the law according to the true intent and meaning of the same and shall be recognised as valid and effectual by all Our Courts and Judges in our Dominions and by all other officers persons and bodies politic and corporate whom it doth concern and that the same shall be construed in the most favourable and beneficial sense and for the best advantage of the Association as well in all Our several Courts of Record in Our Dominions as elsewhere notwithstanding any non-recital or mis-recital uncertainty or imperfection in this Charter.

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

WITNESS Ourselves at Westminster the Fourth day of January in the Second Year of Our Reign.

BY WARRANT under the hands of the Lords Commissioners in the name and on behalf of His Majesty.

MUIR MACKENZIE.

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*Preamble to the Supplemental Charter granted 28th March 1949.*

George the Sixth by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, to all to whom these Presents shall come Greeting

WHEREAS -

1. His late Majesty King George the Fifth on the Fourth day of January in the Second Year of His Reign of His special grace certain knowledge and mere motion by Royal Charter incorporated The Boy Scouts Association and did grant and ordain that the Association shall have and may exercise all or any of the powers in the said Royal Charter mentioned.
2. By the said Royal Charter the Association are authorised to apply for and to exercise any powers obtained under any supplemental Charter.
3. It has been represented to Us -

- (i) That the Association's income from invested funds is likely seriously to fall by reason of the greatly reduced yield on and the more restricted field of trustee investments compared with the yield on the field of such investments when the said Royal Charter was granted.
- (ii) That the Association have given anxious consideration to the Association's financial position and have taken steps to secure the utmost economy in the administration of the Association's affairs.
- (iii.) That the Association are satisfied that the Association's expenditure cannot further be reduced without serious prejudice to the work of the Association.
- (iv.) That the Association after full consideration and thorough investigation are of opinion that the Association would be able consistently with the safe and prudent administration of the Association's affairs to lessen any further reduction in the Association's income from invested funds if the Association had wider powers of investment.
- (v.) That the Council and Committee of the Association have duly authorised as provided in the said Royal Charter and the Bye Laws of the Association an application for a supplemental Charter.
- (vi.) That the grant of a supplemental Charter to the Association will greatly promote and facilitate the work of the Association.

4. On the 15th day of September 1948 the Association humbly petitioned for the grant to the Association of a supplemental Charter.

NOW THEREFORE KNOW YE that We being always ready to give Our Royal countenance and encouragement to all useful and charitable works do of Our special grace certain knowledge and mere motion by these presents for Us Our Heirs and Successors hereby confirm the Royal Charter granted by His late Majesty King George the Fifth to The Boy Scouts Association on the Fourth day of January in the Second Year of His Reign and We do hereby grant and ordain that in addition to all the powers granted to the Association by the said Royal Charter the Association shall have and may exercise the following powers:-

*NOTE. - The additional paragraph xiii (a) containing additional powers of investment was substituted by new powers of investment granted in the Supplemental Charter dated 19th July 1991.*

And the foregoing paragraph containing the said powers shall be read and construed together with and as if the same formed part of the said Royal Charter and were incorporated therein as paragraph (xiiiia) of the Second Article thereof and the said powers shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the powers conferred on the Association by the said Royal Charter and may be exercised notwithstanding anything in the said Royal Charter contained.

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

WITNESS Ourselves at Westminster the 28th day of March in the Thirteenth Year of Our Reign.

BY WARRANT under the King's Sign Manual.

NAPIER.

*Preamble to the Supplemental Charter granted 18th February 1959.*

Elizabeth the Second by the Grace of God, of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith,

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting!

WHEREAS His Majesty King George the Fifth by Royal Charter dated the fourth day of January in the second year of His Reign (hereinafter called "the Original Charter"), constituted a body corporate and politic by the name of "The Boy Scouts Association" (hereinafter called "the Association") with the powers therein mentioned:

AND WHEREAS Our late Royal Father His Majesty King George the Sixth by a Supplemental Charter dated the twenty-eighth day of March in the thirteenth year of His Reign (hereinafter called "the Supplemental Charter") granted certain additional powers to the Association:

AND WHEREAS the Association has represented into Us that for the further successful development of the activities and the achievement of the aims of the Association it is desirable that

- (a) the Council of the Association should be constituted in such a manner as to make its membership fully representative of all those persons who are actively engaged in the work of the Association in all parts of Our Commonwealth (excepting Australia, Canada, Ceylon, India, the Federation of Malaya, New Zealand, Pakistan and South Africa, in all of which countries independent Boy Scouts Associations have been established); and
- (b) the permitted annual value of lands, tenements and hereditaments held by the Association in Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland should be increased.

NOW, THEREFORE, KNOW YE that We being always ready to give Our Royal countenance and encouragement to all useful and charitable works have of Our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion granted and ordained and do by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors grant and ordain as follows:-

NOTE. - The two paragraphs that followed here have been inserted in or substituted for the original paragraphs to which they refer in the appropriate places in the main text of the original Charter.

3. Save as aforesaid We do hereby confirm the provisions of the Original Charter and of the Supplemental Charter.

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

WITNESS Ourselves at Westminster the eighteenth day of February in the seventh Year of Our Reign.

BY WARRANT under the Queen's Sign Manual.

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*Preamble to the Supplemental Charter granted 5th May 1967.*

Elizabeth the Second by the Grace of God, of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting!

WHEREAS His Majesty King George the Fifth by Royal Charter dated the fourth day of January in the second year of His Reign (hereinafter called "the Original Charter"), constituted a body corporate and politic by the name of "The Boy Scouts Association" (hereinafter called "the Association") with the powers therein mentioned:

AND WHEREAS His Majesty King George the Sixth by a Supplemental Charter dated the twenty-eighth day of March in the thirteenth year of His Reign (hereinafter called "the first Supplemental Charter") granted certain additional powers to the Association:

AND WHEREAS We by a Supplemental Charter dated the eighteenth day of February in the eighth year of Our Reign (hereinafter called "the second Supplemental Charter") granted certain further additional powers to the Association:

AND WHEREAS the Association has represented unto Us that for the further successful development of the activities and the achievement of the aims of the Association it is desirable that

- (a) the name of the Association should be changed to "The Scout Association"; and
- (b) certain other variations should be made in the provisions of the aforesaid Charters:

NOW THEREFORE KNOW YE that We of Our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion have granted and ordained and do by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors grant and ordain as follows:-

*NOTE - The substitutions and deletions made by the five paragraphs which followed here have been made in the main text of the original Charter.*

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

WITNESS Ourselves at Westminster the fifth day of May in the sixteenth Year of Our Reign.

BY WARRANT under the Queen's Sign Manual.

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*Preamble to the Supplemental Charter granted 19th July 1991.*

Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith,

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greetings!

WHEREAS His Majesty King George the Fifth by Royal Charter dated the 4th day of January 1912 (hereinafter called "the Original Charter"), constituted a body corporate and politic by the name of "The Boy Scouts Association" (hereinafter called "the Association") with the powers therein mentioned:

AND WHEREAS His Majesty King George the Sixth by a Supplemental Charter dated the 28th day of March 1949 granted certain additional powers to the Association:

AND WHEREAS We by Supplemental Charters dated the 18th day of February 1959 and the 5th day of May 1967 granted certain further powers to the Association, and authorised the name of the Association to be changed to "The Scout Association":

AND WHEREAS by an humble Petition the Association has represented unto Us that for the further successful development of the activities and the achievement of the aims of the Association it is desirable that to extend the scope and purpose of the Association to young people of both sexes, to make certain other amendments to the Original Charter in

relation to the Association's powers of investment, and to provide a procedure for future amendment of the Association's Charters:

NOW THEREFORE KNOW YE that We having taken the said Petition into Our Royal Consideration, and being minded to accede thereto, have of Our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion granted and ordained and do by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, grant and ordain as follows:-

1. The Original Charter shall be, altered in the manner set out in Articles 2 to 5 hereof but nothing in such alterations shall affect the legality or validity of any act, deed or thing lawfully done or executed under the provisions of the existing Charters of the Association.

Note. - The five paragraphs that followed here had been inserted in or substituted for the original paragraphs to which they refer in the original Charter.

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

WITNESS Ourselves at Westminster the nineteenth day of July in the fortieth Year of Our Reign.

BY WARRANT under the Queen's Sign Manual.

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