

E V I D E N C E

1. The first charter

The first charter of the Norman-English dynasty¹ was granted to the Corporation of the City of London² by William the Conquerer in 1067.

2. The successful dynasty

HRH Elizabeth II is a direct descendant of William the Conquerer.³ HRH Prince Philip is also a direct descendant of William the Conquerer.⁴

3. Privy Council Office functions

- Accommodation
- Arts, Leisure and Sport
- Applications to use 'university' in a business name
- Burial grounds - arranging closures
- Charities
- Ecclesiastical Matters
- Environment
- Facilities and Corporate projects
- Finance
- Financial Institutions
- Higher Education
- High Sheriffs
- Human Resources
- Local Government
- Management Institutions
- Messenger/Security Service
- Military matters
- Orders in Council - drafting and issuing
- Policy groups - administrative support
- Privy Counsellors - arrangement of new appointments
- Privy Council Meetings - arranging
- Privy Council Meetings - preparatory work

¹ "Norman" for its origin and "English" for its headquarters.

² "City of London Livery Companies" (2006), City of London Public Relations Office, p 17.

³ Bamber Gascoigne, *Encyclopedia of Britain* (1993), pp 550-51.

⁴ Kitty Kelley, *The Royals* (1997), endpapers.

- Recruitment
- Royal Charters - production of
- Statutory Bodies - administering appointments
- Statutory Instruments - receipt and preparation
- Science, Engineering and Technology
- Statutory health Care Regulation
- Statutory Instruments
- Veterinary matters

The assignment of these tasks to office staff shows four additional areas of responsibility:

- Statutory Health Care Regulation
- Accountants professional bodies
- Royal/Constitutional matters
- Medical Institutions and Royal Colleges
- Parliamentary Questions⁵

4. The range of chartered bodies

Royal charters are, with few exceptions, the basis for most of the 108 City of London Livery Companies.⁶ Royal charters have also been granted to 66 cities, a large but unknown number of schools, colleges, universities and institutes, almost every profession including legal, financial, health, construction, energy, technology, management, agricultural, manufacturing, transport and the press.

5. The number of chartered bodies

The number of unrevoked chartered bodies is reported to be “400 or so” but the list published online by the Privy Council Office has been systematically altered page by page. The total of those listed comes to 546 but the actual count is probably closer to a thousand and possibly more.

6. Royal charters are intended to be binding contracts

Royal charters satisfy all the elements of legally binding contracts (except for propriety), including *quid pro quo* (something for something).⁷ City livery companies provide financial assistance to Church of England schools and all branches of the military.⁸

⁵ Organisational chart of the Privy Council Office (April 2007)

⁶ Survey of City Livery Company websites.

⁷ Laurence Koffman and Elizabeth MacDonald, *The Law of Contract* (1992) London: Fourmat Publishing

⁸ Survey of City Livery Company websites.

7. The charter of the Worshipful Company of International Bankers

Almost no City livery company website makes its charter available online to non-members.⁹ One exception is the Worshipful Company of International Bankers which contains this implied command to ministers and judges in section 15(b):

Our royal will and pleasure is that this Our Charter shall be construed benevolently and in every case most favourably to the Worshipful Company and the promotion of the objects of this Our Charter.

8. The composition of the Worshipful Company of International Bankers

In 2008, the master of the Worshipful Company of International Bankers was the Chief Executive of Fortis Bank (his predecessors included the chairman of the Camelot Group, a former governor of the Bank of England, a former chairman of HSBC Holdings, a former chairman of Lloyds TSB Group and senior adviser to Morgan Stanley & Co International). The deputy master was chairman and CEO of Arbuthnot Banking Group and members of the court included representatives from Wachovia Bank, the London Stock Exchange, JP Morgan, Credit Suisse and the chairman of Europe, Middle East & Africa Merrill Lynch International.

9. Charters order ministers, judges and civil servants to turn a blind eye to fraud

A significant though unknown number of Royal Charters currently in force command either explicitly or by implication that judges, ministers and public servants give favourable treatment to the chartered body “non-recital (concealment) and mis-recital (deception) notwithstanding”.

The BBC charter granted in 1996 states: *We do further will, ordain and declare that these Our Letters or the enrolment or exemplification thereof shall be in and by all things good, firm, valid, sufficient and effectual in law according to the true intent and meaning thereof and shall be taken, construed and judged in the most favourable and beneficial sense for the best advantage of the corporation in Our Courts of Record as elsewhere by all and singular Judges, Justices, Officers, Ministers and other Our Subjects whatsoever any non-recital, mis-recital or any other omission, imperfection, defect, matter, cause or thing whatsoever to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.*

10. The composition of the City of London’s Financial Services Group

The Financial Services Group is composed of 11 livery companies: the Worshipful Company of Solicitors of the City of London, the Worshipful Company of Chartered Accountants, the Worshipful Company of Chartered Secretaries and

⁹ Ibid.

Administrators, the Worshipful Company of Marketors, the Worshipful Company of Actuaries, the Worshipful Company of Insurers, the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators, the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists, the Worshipful Company of World Traders, the Worshipful Company of Management Consultants and the Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers.

11. Senior judges accept hospitality from the Corporation of the City of London

Each year senior figures in the English judiciary accept hospitality from the Lord Mayor of the Corporation of the City of London.

My Lord High Chancellor and Secretary of State, My Lord Chief Justice, Master of the Rolls, Fellow Aldermen, Mr Recorder, Sheriffs, Ladies and Gentlemen. Welcome all of you to the Mansion House and a special welcome to all of you who are here at this annual dinner for the first time.

At their dinner the Bishops always attempt to win first place in the annual race to drink more of our best Mansion House claret than anyone else. The cognoscenti amongst you will know that you Judges have won the prize for several years in succession and I feel sure you will not wish to disappoint my accountant this evening.¹⁰

According to the City of London website, the corporation owns and operates the Old Bailey and provides daily luncheons for the judges.

12. Many City Livery Company clerks have high-ranking military titles

A significant number of City livery company clerks have high-ranking military titles.¹¹ This suggests that members of the aristocracy may predominate.

13. The royal connection to offshore banking

[W]hat unites the three dependencies [the Isle of Man, the island of Jersey and the island of Guernsey] is that each euphemistically described as an offshore banking centre. In practice, all three are amongst the world's major tax havens. (Of the 24 offshore banking centres world-wide recognised by the Offshore Financial Centres Directory, 14 have the Queen as head of state... This is a characteristic they share with many of the Queen's overseas territories, including Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Gibraltar and the sovereign territories of Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados and Belize...

[T]he Queen is...also head of state to the bulk of the offshore-banking and tax-haven industry. In banking terms, the banks on her territories handle most of the trillions of dollars held outside the main financial systems of the civilised world.¹²

¹⁰ Speech by The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London Alderman David Lewis, 15 July 2008.

¹¹ City of London website

¹² Kevin Cahill, *Who Owns the World* (2007), p 49

14. A reversal of the BBC's previous royal charter

The current BBC charter reverses the previous command: *This Charter shall be interpreted objectively. The presumption that a grant by the Crown is to be interpreted most beneficially for the Crown and against the subject shall not apply.*

15. Composition of the Worshipful Company of Paviers

*Today the principal object of the Company is to further the 'craft of paving' in its modern context that is the planning, research, design, construction, maintenance and management of all paved surfaces as used in floors, pedestrian areas, playing surfaces, hard standings, landscaping, pavements, streets, roads, motorways and runways.*¹³

16. Sir Kenneth Cork's intention to make ministers subservient

Kenneth Cork (deceased), a City insolvency practitioner, government 'fixer' and Lord Mayor from 1978-79 describes his creation of 'instant' livery companies:

*So we proposed to the Court of Aldermen that there should be a new breed of livery company which could be brought into being instantly. Those who could show that they qualified by having the necessary power, influence and charitable funds, and were respectable in every way, should not have to go through the traditional process. The City officers were utterly opposed to the concept of instant livery companies...But the Court of Aldermen jumped at the idea. They saw them as adding power to the office of Lord Mayor. **In any future argument with the government, a Lord Mayor could point to his court of Aldermen containing members of the new professions who were giving him full support, and ask the Prime Minister whether he thought it was in his interest to fall out with influential people of that calibre...** [emphasis added]*

The professions I had in mind were the Chartered Secretaries, the insurers, the 80,000 Chartered Accountants, the Chartered Surveyors, the marketers, the bankers, the actuaries. All such had personal skills which had replaced the 'craft' skills of old. They were another kind of craft. Moreover they had standing and integrity, and supported by ample funds, for whom the City was designed...Such people as I envisaged forming the new instant livery companies had a vested interest in keeping the City intact, in keeping the aldermen and the Corporation free of the GLC and any political flavour it might have...

Many asked where the professional institute would end and the livery company begin. This presented no problem. The Chartered Accountants, for instance, ran the profession, but the Great and the Good joined the livery company, which gave them the facility to give service after they had ceased to serve on the institute --

¹³ <http://www.paviers.org.uk/about/origins.aspx>

senior and respected people, not necessarily retired, but probably still working in their firms. As livery men they would influence their own profession and the Institute, while recognising that the independence of the City of London and of the Lord Mayor protected their independence. [original emphasis]¹⁴

17. The Worshipful Company of Insurers sets 'something of a record'

Considering that insurance has thrived in this City for well over three hundred years, it is perhaps surprising that the industry had not spawned a Livery Company centuries ago. In fact, the Insurers' Company set something of a record in moving from incorporation as a Guild Company to the achievement of Livery status within the space of three months, [amazing, usually takes years] the formal letters patent being granted on 18 September 1979 and presented by the Lord Mayor, Sir Kenneth Cork, on 19 October 1979 to create the Worshipful Company of Insurers.

The Company was formed following an initiative by Sir Kenneth Cork who, during his year as Aldermanic Sheriff, came to recognise the desirability of the important financial services to the City being represented by Livery Companies able to play a full part in the governance and development of the City.¹⁵

18. Sir Kenneth on throwing doubt on the reputation of British insurance

The vehicle he used to inflict 'this gigantic swindle' on the British public--to use Judge King-Hamilton's words--had limited liability, and was called the Fire, Auto and Marine Insurance Company Ltd. As a foreigner, he saw limited liability as a delightful invention of the Western world which excused people like him from personal risk. As a crook he would only consider it the attitude of a weakling to admit that limited risk assumed limited responsibility. It would have been beyond him to realise that to be granted limited liability was a privilege, and that in exercising it an entrepreneur had a debt to society to be excessively honest in every calculation he made. Most of all, such a code insisted that, having led people into a mess, the last thing an honest operator did was walk away and leave them there. Perhaps the most damaging aspect of the Savundra debacle was not the harm he did to the company's 400,000 policy-holders with their 43,000 outstanding claims, which was bad enough, but what he did to potential overseas customers for British insurance for whom the reputation for honesty and straight dealing of British firms was second to none. For anyone to throw doubt on the reliability of the insurance market in Britain in the way Savundra did was unforgivable. It was this that earned him universal contempt.¹⁶

¹⁴ Cork on Cork (1988) pp 218-19

¹⁵ Worshipful Company of Insurers website (May 2007)

¹⁶ Op cit.

18. The Lord Mayor of London travels with the status of cabinet minister

For example, we prepare briefings for the Lord Mayor's overseas visits: he spends up to a third of his time travelling overseas, with the status of cabinet minister, and we brief him on [Insurance] matters to assist his discussions with overseas business people, regulators, officials and Government ministers...¹⁷

19. The status and duties of the Lord Mayor of the Corporation

As head of the City of London, the Lord Mayor presides over its governing bodies - the Court of Aldermen and the Court of Common Council. He is Chief Magistrate of the City of London, Admiral of the Port of London, Chancellor of City University and President or Patron of many other civic and charitable organisations.

*He also has a much wider business role - working for Britain as a whole, supporting and promoting the world's leading international financial centre, the City of London, both at home and abroad. His position as a trusted spokesman for the business community is enhanced by the entirely apolitical nature of his office.*¹⁸

20. A royal charter is a mark of royal favour

*After the grant of a Charter of Incorporation, the Privy Council does not monitor the proceedings of the body or institution so incorporated in any way. This is partly because Charters are granted only to institutions which have already, over a considerable period, demonstrated their responsible approach. It is also because, because being a mark of Royal favour, it would be inconsistent with the policy underlying such a grant to interfere with it... Constitutionally, it is not open to the Privy Council to intervene in any way in the affairs of a chartered body unless allegations were made of so scandalous a nature as to suggest that charter should be withdrawn...[A] "body incorporated by Charter is not, of course, in any way above the law."*¹⁹

21. The composition of the Worshipful Company of Security Professionals

Membership of the Company is drawn from the Security Industry in its widest sense and includes leading security professionals from the industrial and retail sectors, serving and retired members of the police and armed services, security consultants, academics, heads of security for corporate businesses, investigators and electronic surveillance companies.²⁰

¹⁷ Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers website (May 2007)

¹⁸ City of London website (May 2007)

¹⁹ Privy Council Office letter to Austin Mitchell MP (24 June 1992)

²⁰ Worshipful Company of Security Professionals website (April 2007)

22. Other City Livery Companies of particular interest

Worshipful Company of Apothecaries (the pharmaceutical industry)
Worshipful Company of Brewers/Worshipful Company of Distillers/Worshipful Company of Vintners
Worshipful Company of Builders Merchants
Worshipful Company of Constructors
Worshipful Company of Environmental Cleaners (cleaning and waste industries)
Worshipful Company of Fan Makers (air conditioning)
Worshipful Company of Fuellers (solid fuel, solar, atomic, gas and electricity)
Worshipful Company of Horners (plastics industry)
Worshipful Company of Ironmongers (ferrous metal industry)
Worshipful Company of Lightmongers (lighting and electrical industry)
Worshipful Company of Shipwrights (arms trade)
Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers
Worshipful Company of World Traders (ships, insurance, commodities, finance)

23. Margaret Thatcher's support for monetarism, free trade and deregulation

The great advantage I had over many of my contemporaries in politics was that whereas they had first to be persuaded of the theoretical advantages of monetarism, free trade and deregulation, the technical arguments and insights were so completely in harmony with my fundamental instincts and early experience that I was much more easily convinced--and my convictions helped me to convince others.²¹

24. The Fraud Act 2006 obstructs prosecution for fraud

2 Fraud by false representation

1. A person is in breach of this section if he

- (a) dishonestly makes a false representation, and
 - (b) **intends** by making the representation--
 - (i) to make a gain for himself or another, or
 - (ii) to cause a loss to another or expose another to a risk of loss [emphasis added]
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25. Ignorance of City Livery Companies is almost universal

Writing of MPs' finances, a prominent associate political editor wrote:

George Osborne was rewarded for addressing the Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers, whatever that is.²²

Compiled by Suzon Forscey-Moore in the public interest

²¹ Margaret Thatcher, *The Path to Power* (1995) p 568

²² Kevin Maguire of the *Daily Mirror* in the *New Statesman* (11 May 2009)

