

CROWN OFFICE,
HOUSE OF LORDS,

S.W.1.

23rd May, 1952.

Dear Pitblado

The Office of Lord Great Chamberlain, the Great Officer of State who has charge of the Palace of Westminster, is hereditary, being descendible in "tail general". This means (among other things) that when a holder dies leaving no son and more than one daughter, the right to the office is vested in two or more persons as co-heirs. The duties then have to be performed by deputy.

The Office has been held by co-heirs for very many years and the duties have been performed by various deputies. The procedure is for the co-heirs to nominate by unanimous consent a person to act as their Deputy to execute the duties of the office, and for that Deputy Nominate to petition The Queen for Her Majesty's approval of his nomination. Lord Ancaster was the last nominee and was appointed Deputy in February 1950 by the late King.

The recent demise of the Crown has caused the co-heirs to change their nominee. The present co-heirs are the Marquess of Cholmondeley, the Earl of Ancaster and the issue of the late Marquess of Lincolnshire, and they have agreed to nominate the Marquess of Cholmondeley as their Deputy in the place of Lord Ancaster and for that purpose have completed a Deed of Nomination.

In accordance with usual practice Lord Cholmondeley has sent his Petition and the supporting Deed of Nomination to this Office. They are in order, and accordingly I now forward them herewith.

The next step is for the Prime Minister, if he thinks fit, to put forward Lord Cholmondeley's name to The Queen for Her Majesty's approbation, and, when Her Majesty has signified Her pleasure, for you to instruct the Home Office to prepare a Warrant signifying The Queen's approval of the selection of Lord Cholmondeley to execute the office of Deputy Lord Great Chamberlain.

When the Home Office receive your instructions, they will need the enclosed documents for the preparation of the Warrant. I am sending a copy of this letter to Strutt at the Home Office.

Yours sincerely

D.B. Pitblado, Esq.

A. E. A. Lapin