



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON SW1A 2HH

From the Minister

PRIME MINISTER

Dear Sir,

I am sorry to have to trouble you with a very minor issue on Ministers' private interests. Robin Ferrers has just been appointed High Steward of Norwich Cathedral at a salary, determined in 1552, of £6.67p per annum. As High Steward he will be responsible for the cathedral's fabric, and I suppose it is just possible that he might have some dealing with Government in that capacity. I see no real risk of conflict of interest, and if any were to arise Robin would resign the Stewardship at once. But in view of the rigour of the rules I thought I ought to tell you of his appointment.

Peter Walker

PETER WALKER
27 July 1979

RECEIVED BY THE POST OFFICE
ON THE 30th DAY OF 1900



30



COMMERCIAL

Minute

2 August 1979

I am writing to confirm that the Prime Minister has no objection to Lord Ferrers holding the post of High Steward of Norwich Cathedral, and accepting a salary for that post, whilst holding office as a Minister, as reported in your Minister's minute to her of 27 July.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

M.A. PATTISON

G.R. Waters, Esq.,
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

LB

Ref: A087



MR. PATTISON

I have, needless to say, thought long and hard about whether or not Lord Ferrers appointment as High Steward of Norwich Cathedral gives rise to an actual or potential conflict of interest with his Ministerial position. It seems to me that neither the post nor the salary appear likely to create such a situation. (The salary would seem to make the post a good candidate for the comparability Commission!)

(M. J. Vile)

1st August, 1979



UNITED KINGDOM

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

- 1 AUG 1979

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Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your letter of 27th July 1979, in which you refer to the fact that the Ministry of Defence is not in a position to accept the offer of a grant of arms for the purpose of the proposed project.

I am sorry that the Ministry is unable to accept the offer of a grant of arms for the purpose of the proposed project. The Ministry would be pleased to discuss the matter with you if you are able to contact the Ministry of Defence at the address given below.

Yours faithfully,

(Signature)

12123



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

MR. VILE
CABINET OFFICE

I would be grateful for advice on the attached minute from the Minister of Agriculture about Lord Ferrers' private interests. I trust that there are no historic complications in holding the office of High Steward of Norwich Cathedral at the same time as holding a Ministerial office.

M. A. PATTISON

31 July 1979

578

cc Cab. *PA*

27 July 1979

Thank you for your letter of 25 July, seeking the Prime Minister's approval for Lord Ferrers to remain a name at Lloyds.

The Prime Minister is content that Lord Ferrers should remain a name at Lloyds on the basis proposed.

M.A. PATTISON

A.J. Perrins, Esq.,
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Ref: A064



MR. PATTISON

As you surmise in your minute of 26th July, I see no difficulties in Lord Ferrers continuing to be a "name" at Lloyds, since he proposes to take no part in managing the affairs of his syndicate, and his syndicate poses no conflict of interest problem.

(M. J. Vile)

26th July, 1979

MR. VILE,
CABINET OFFICE

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Could I please have your advice about the attached request by Lord Ferrers to remain a name at Lloyds? On the basis of recent precedents, I expect that you will see no difficulty in the Prime Minister's acquiescence.

M.A.P.

DRB-

26 July 1979



From the
Minister of State

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Whitehall Place London SW1A 2HH

M A Pattison Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
SW1

25 July 1979

Dear Mr Pattison,

I am writing on behalf of the Minister of State, Lord Ferrers, about a private interest which he wishes to maintain during his period of office, but which requires the approval of the Prime Minister under the guidelines laid down in 'Questions of Procedure for Ministers'. The Minister of State regrets that the necessary clearance was not sought earlier.

Lord Ferrers has since 1978 been a Name at Lloyds and his underwriting affairs are looked after by Norman Frizell (Underwriting) Ltd. Lord Ferrers does not take any part in managing the affairs of the syndicate, and the emphasis of this particular syndicate's business does not seem to be such that his continued participation in it would be in any way inconsistent with his Ministerial office.

I should be very grateful if you could seek the approval of the Prime Minister to Lord Ferrers continuing with his Lloyds activities.

Yours sincerely

Eric Shipkin

¹⁴² A J Perrins
Private Secretary

Faint, illegible text at the top of the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.

26 JUL 1979
12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Circular postmark with numbers 1 through 12 around the perimeter and a central hand pointing to approximately 10:10.