

Note No: A005/10

Protocol Directorate presents its compliments to Their Excellencies the High Commissioners and Ambassadors and to Acting High Commissioners and Chargés d’Affaires in the United Kingdom, and has the honour to attach for their information, and that of their Governments, a copy of the Rules governing the acceptance and wearing of foreign Orders, Decorations and Medals by citizens of the United Kingdom and her Overseas Territories.

Paragraphs 1 and 7 of the Rules request that **before** any award of a national honour is made to a UK citizen, HM Government should be consulted, through Honours Secretariat of Protocol Directorate. In most cases agreement is given, but there are some cases where the Rules may still preclude a UK citizen from accepting a foreign award. Prior and informal consultation with the Honours Secretariat helps to avoid potential embarrassment or disappointment. It would be appreciated if Embassies could provide the following information:

- Full name, date of birth, address and occupation of the intended recipient
- Description of the proposed honour.
- Brief details of the reasons for its award. There must be clear service to the country requesting permission.

Paragraphs 13, 14 and 15 apply to United Kingdom citizens who are employed in the service of the Crown, and who therefore in most cases may not receive foreign awards. Conditions also apply to the acceptance and wearing of the insignia of foreign and also certain Commonwealth Orders, decorations and medals by United Kingdom citizens who are not employed in the service of the Crown.

The contact details for such consultations are:

Mrs Monique Foulcer, Honours Secretariat, Protocol Directorate, Room 1/62,
Old Admiralty Building, London, SW1A 2PA, Tel: 020-7008 1027,
Fax: 020-7008 0971. E-Mail: Honours.Secretariat@fco.gov.uk.

Protocol Directorate would be grateful if Heads of Mission would also remind their Governments as necessary that the Rules preclude the Heads of Her Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Missions overseas, or members of their staff, from accepting any foreign awards, including on the occasion of their final departure from post, or their retirement.

Protocol Directorate avails itself of this opportunity to express to Their Excellencies the High Commissioners and Ambassadors and to Acting High Commissioners and Chargés d'Affaires in the United Kingdom the assurance of its highest consideration.

A copy of the Rules can be found on the Protocol website:

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/protocolwebsite>

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