Constitution

Of

The British Isles

Or

An Act Declaring the Civil and Religious Liberties of Freeborn Subjects of the Crown, and to secure and render more effectual certain acts of the fifteenth year of King John, and of the first year of King Edward the First, and of the fourth year of King Charles the First, and of the first year of King William and Queen Mary, and to prohibit their encroachment and extirpation

And

An Act to Consolidate the laws and customs of the Constitution relating to the Frame of Government, Amend the Representation of the People, Secure the independence of the House of Commons from the encroachments of the Crown, and render independent the Judiciary

CONTAINS

A Description of Subject Territories of the Government – Liberties and Securities of Freeborn Subjects – Parliament, its Composition, Subjects Eligible, Election, Grand Divisions and their Demarcation, and a Description of its Acts – The Crown, its Selection, his Privy Council and its Composition, and his Protection of the Established Churches – A Description of the Judiciary, its Head, and its Independence – Procedures of Amendment

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# Charter of Liberties and Securities of Freeborn Subjects

*Intituled, an Act Declaring the Civil and Religious Liberties of Freeborn Subjects of the Crown, and to secure and render more effectual certain acts of the fifteenth year of the reign of King John, and of the first year of the reign of King Edward the First, and of the fourth year of the reign of King Charles the First, and of the fifteenth year of the reign of King Charles the Second, and of the first year of the reign of King William the Third, and to prohibit their encroachment and extirpation.*

WHEREAS civil and religious liberty, security, and preservation of property is necessary for the prosperity of the governed;

And WHEREAS governments which ignored the liberties of freeborn subjects did extirpate the life, liberty, and property of their subjects, terrorize the people, and form tyrannies of the sword;

And WHEREAS the liberties of freeborn subjects ought to be made secure to prohibit their encroachment and extirpation;

And WHEREAS by an act made in the fifteenth year of the reign of King John intituled 'The Great Charter of the Liberties of England,' it is declared and enacted the rights and liberties of all the Freemen of our Realm;

And WHEREAS by Cap. V of the acts made in the first year of the reign of King Edward the First in the first Parliament general after his coronation, no man shall disturb any to make free election;

And WHEREAS by an act made in the fourth year of King Charles the First intituled “The Petition Exhibited to His Majesty by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present Parliament assembled concerning divers Rights and Liberties of the Subjects , with the King's Majesty's royal answer thereunto in full Parliament” sundry unlawful acts were condemned and divers rights and liberties were upheld, according to the laws and statutes of the realm;

And WHEREAS by an act made in the fifteenth year of King Charles the Second intituled “An Act for the better securing the Liberty of the Subject, and for Prevention of Imprisonment beyond the Seas” the security of the person from arbitrary government was assured, except in cases of emergency declared by Parliament;

And WHEREAS by an act made in the first year of the reign of King William and Queen Mary intituled “An Act declaring the Rights and Liberties of the Subject and settling the Succession of the Crown”, subjects were vindicated and assured their rights and liberties;

And WHEREAS by an act made in the first year of the reign of King William and Queen Mary intituled “An Act for Exempting their Majesties Protestant Subjects dissenting from the Church of England from the Penalties of certain Laws”, the restraints of the governors on the ability of a person to instruct his fellow persons on religious duties were removed;

And WHEREAS the expiration of an act made in the fourteenth year of the reign of King Charles the Second intituled “An Act for preventing the frequent Abuses in printing seditious treasonable and unlicensed Books and Pamphlets and for regulating of Printing and Printing Presses” did confirm the ancient right of the liberty of the press;

And WHEREAS divers Liberties and Securities are granted by the Forces of the Common Law and Custom of Time Immemorial;

And WHEREAS the Liberties and Securities of Freeborn Subjects ought to be consolidated into a single Charter for the Benefit of the People;

The Parliament of the British Isles upon the twenty-fourth day of January in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred twenty-nine, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords and Commons and the Assent of the Crown, recognizes these Liberties and Securities as Integral to the Law of Land of the British Isles:

## Right to Life, Liberty, and Property

1. General Right

All persons have the right to life, liberty and property, and no person shall be deprived of either but by the due process of law and the judgement of his peers.

1. Habeas Corpus

All persons shall be allowed to exercise the right to Habeas Corpus as declared by Acts of Parliament, and this right shall not be suspended except by Act of Parliament in such time as there is actual invasion or rebellion on the soil of the British Isles.

1. Right to Work only with Consent

By no one shall service in any shape be exacted of any person, without giving him in writing a sufficient acknowledgment thereof, and the assent to the person to the statement so contained, except for punishment for crime whereof the party has been duly convicted.

1. Right against Unreasonable Searches

All persons have the right to be secure from all unreasonable Searches, in their Person, House, Paper, and Possessions; and all Warrants shall therefore be supported by Oath or Affirmation, and shall have cause or foundation, accompanied by a special designation of the persons or objects of search, arrest or seizure, and shall be only issued by a Judge in cases and formalities prescribed by the law.

1. Property Rights

All persons have a sacred and inviolable right to their property, and no person shall have his property alienated for public use without just compensation established by Act of Parliament.

1. Right to Bear Arms

Subjects of the British Isles may have arms for their defence suitable to their conditions and as allowed by law.

1. Right against Forced Quartering

No person shall be required, without their consent, to receive soldiers in their houses, except in times of rebellion or invasion by order of a civil magistrate, in a manner prescribed by parliament.

## Rights of the Accused

1. Access to Justice

To no one will we sell, to no one will we deny or delay right or justice.

1. Double Jeopardy

No person shall be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life and limb.

1. Right against Self-Incrimination

No court of law shall punish, or cause to be punished, any person or persons for refusing to answer questions against themselves in criminal cases.

1. Right to Counsel

All persons accused of a crime shall have the right to assistance of counsel for their defence, and all indictments shall be presented to the accused.

1. Right against Retroactive Punishment

No person shall be convicted for any offense except for violation of a law passed before the offense was committed.

1. Right to Juries in High Crimes

No person shall be held to answer for a high crime unless on the indictment of a jury except in impeachments, or cases arising in land and naval forces, or in times of public danger.

## Rights of the Imprisoned

1. Right to fair Punishment

No person shall be required excessive bail, nor be imposed excessive fines, nor be inflicted cruel and unusual punishments.

1. Investigation of Mistreatment

All courts of law, and all magistrates, shall investigate gaols in their jurisdiction for mistreatment, and their findings shall be published in a freely distributed register.

## Right to Trial by Jury

1. General Right

For all Persons the right to trial by Jury, duly Impaneled and Returned, shall be preserved for all areas and cases where it has Force of Law.

1. Prohibition on packing of juries

The packing of juries, whereby, standing bodies of jurymen are corrupted such that they manifest obsequiousness, are hereby abolished in all trials.

1. Composition of Lists

Qualified Lists, of all subjects whose habitation is in the jurisdiction of the court, are composed and framed by the local magistrate, and without those persons disqualified by the law, habituated distantly from the court, with connexion to the Parties of the Trial, or excluded by peremptory challenge, the sheriff or depute serving therein, selects veniremen by lot.

1. Petty Juries

Petty Juries are selected by lot from a list of veniremen, and are summoned to a court of law by the local magistrate, and are judges of law as well as fact, and no judge may rule contrary to the verdict of a jury.

1. Juror unanimity

In all cases only unanimity returns a guilty verdict.

1. Selection of Grand Juries

Grand Juries are selected by the local magistrate from the list of freeholders of the jurisdiction, and are summoned to a court of law by the local magistrate to find evidence for a case and accuse a person of a crime.

1. Secrecy of Jury Conferences

Juries meet secretly in conference without the presence of any person not a juryman, and the judge and jury are obligated to keep out all unauthorized persons from the conference.

1. Length of Jury Conferences

A jury shall be locked in a conference, and shall be kept there until returning a verdict, unless the court has ordered the jury conference adjourned.

1. Jury refreshments

In order to prevent intemperance or causeless debate, jurymen are to be kept without meat, drink, fire, or candle, except by permission of the custodian of the court, until they reach a verdict.

1. Criminality of Interference in a Jury

The interference of a judge, magistrate, or any other functionary in the matters of a jury by punishment, or intimidation, or otherwise, is an offence.

1. Consecutive Restriction

Jurymen shall serve for no more than four consecutive juries.

1. Renumeration

To insure a fair compensation for time spent, jurymen shall be paid an appropriate renumeration, consisting of demurrage-money the same to all and journey-money proportioned to the distance between the place of trial and each juryman’s place of residence.

## Rights of Parliament

1. Holding of Parliament

For redress of all Grievances, and for the amending, strengthening, and preserving of Laws, Parliaments ought to be held frequently.

1. Summoning of Parliaments

When a Proclamation of the Crown calls a meeting of Parliament, nothing should prevent or obstruct their meeting, and any returning-officer, bailiff, sheriff, magistrate so guilty shall be punished by the law of the land.

1. Self-regulation

Parliament shall regulate its own Debates and Proceedings without any interference whatsoever.

1. Freedom of Speech in Parliament

The making and maintenance of laws, and redress of mischiefs, and grievances which daily happen within this realm, are proper subjects and matter of counsel and debate in parliament, and in the handling and proceeding of those businesses, every Member of the Parliament has, and of right ought to have, freedom of speech to propound, treat, reason, and bring to conclusion the same

1. Non-prosecution nor questioning of MPs

The freedom of speech and debates and proceedings in Parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any Court or Place out of Parliament.

1. Right to investigate

Parliament has the right to inquire in all matters of the Realm, to order the production of Documents, and to summon Witnesses to be examined under Oath.

1. Arrests of Members of Parliament

Only the House of Commons has the right to arrest a Member.

1. Freedom from molestation by executive and judiciary

Every member of Parliament has freedom from all impeachment, imprisonment, and molestation other than, by the censure of the house of Parliament itself, for or concerning any bill, speaking, reasoning, or declaring of any matter or matters, touching the parliament or parliament business

1. Parliamentary Immunity

No Member of Parliament shall be required to attend before a Court or Tribunal, and no Member of Parliament shall be imprisoned or restrained without sentence or order of the House from which are member thereof, unless it be for treason, felony, or breach of the peace.

1. Freedom of access

Parliament shall have freedom of access to the Crown whenever occasion shall require.

1. Favourable construction

The most favourable construction shall be placed upon the deliberations of Parliament.

1. Expulsion of Members of Parliament

Only the House of Commons has the right to expel its Membership.

1. Contempt of Parliament

Only Parliament has the right to rule members or strangers in contempt and punish contemptuous persons as it sees fit for the duration of the session.

1. Powers of Taxation

No tax shall be imposed, unless by the general council of the kingdom.

1. Raising a Standing Army

The raising or keeping a standing army within the kingdom, unless with the consent of Parliament, is against law.

## Religious Liberty

1. Freedom of Worship

All persons are free to worship God in the manner most agreeable to their own conscience, and no person shall be troubled, molested, or discountenanced in any way for or in respect of his or her religious profession or sentiments, nor in the free practice of religion provided he or she does not disturb the public peace, or obstruct others in his or her religious worship.

1. Abolition of blasphemy

The trial of an indictment or information for the avowing and publishing of blasphemous and impious opinions contrary to the doctrines and principles of a religious order is hereby illegal.

1. Non-discrimination in Government

No person shall be prohibited for their religious sentiments, or required to swear or solemnly affirm a condemnation thereof, or be induced to follow the doctrine, discipline, or practice of a religious order to serve in Parliament, or as an agent of the Crown, or as an officer of a judiciary, or as any other functionary, or at any place, trust, or employment relating to the government of the realm or any city, county, borough, or cinque port.

## Freedom of Speech and Conscience

1. General Right

The freedom of speech is among the great bulwarks of liberty, and can never be restrained except by despotic governments; therefore, any person may freely speak, write, and publish his sentiments on all subjects.

1. Prohibition of violation of free speech right

No court of law, no magistrate, shall punish, or endeavour to contribute to the punishing of, any person for having given utterance, or giving expression, or transferring, or the seizing, detaining destruction or damaging of any paper or other substance, of any discourse.

1. Exceptions for Libel and exciting Violation of the Law

Provided always that for any injury done to the reputation of any person by false imputations, every person concerned in the doing of such injury is responsible to the purpose of reparation at the suit and for the benefit of any injured: and that, for anything which being so expressed, has for its object the exciting men to the commission of an offence, any person shall be responsible as above, according to the nature of such offence.

1. Abolition of seditious libel

The trial of an indictment or information for the making or publishing any libel, where an issue or issues are joined between the Crown and the defendant or defendants, is hereby unlawful.

1. Security of Private Writings

No person shall have the security of his private writings infringed, except for the purposes, and on the occasions, and in the manner, determined and declared by the law.

1. Keeping writings from Owners

No writing shall, against the will, known or reasonably presumable of the owner, be carried or kept out of his custody or power, or be seized, destroyed, damaged, or inspected, by or by order of any person in authority: unless it be in pursuance of the order of a Magistrate in the manner prescribed by the law of the land.

1. Damages to writings

In case of such oppressive seizure, destruction, damnification, or inspection, any person concerned in the infliction of the injury shall be responsible to the purpose of pecuniary compensation, with or without ulterior punishment, as the case may require.

## Right of Assembly

1. General Right

All persons have the right to assemble, except in cases endangering the public peace.

1. Prohibition of obstruction

No persons shall be obstructed by force, intimidation, or deceit, from meeting in any number, in any place in which they have individually any right to station themselves, particularly while in the act of making communication of such their observations, and the opinions and wishes suggested by them.

1. Cases for Dissolution

Provided always that if for the prevention of evil to person or property, in cases of unlawful, riotous, and tumultuous assembly, it shall be thought good by the magistrate, for limited time, by proclamation in exact form set by law, to prevent or inhibit persons at large from making assembly in numbers greater than are capable of hearing from beginning to end, the discourse of the same speaker at the same time.

1. Investigations

All deaths and serious injuries from the dispersal of an assembly shall be investigated by courts of law for unlawful action, and their findings shall be published in a freely distributed Register.

## Right to Censure the Government

1. General Right

All persons have the right to censure their Governors, to judge their Actions, and their judgements and grievances may be peaceably expressed as they see fit.

1. Right to examine governmental proceedings

All persons have the right to examine the proceedings of both Houses of Parliament and of the Courts, without restrictions except in cases of emergency mandating secrecy, and Parliament and the Courts shall allow free admittance of the Public to their Sessions with limits set by Law, and the Register of the Realm shall be published in a Gazette freely distributed to all Towns and Counties in the British Isles.

1. List of the Imprisoned

The names of all persons deprived of liberty by imprisonment shall be posted on the door of the court-house in which they were so sentenced, and on the door of the gaol in which they are detained, and in a freely distributed register.

1. Liberty of the Press

All persons are at liberty to distribute their judgements on the actions of the government freely through the press, without the imposition of licensing, or duties, or acts otherwise with the effect of National Gagging.

1. Abolition of taxes on knowledge

All duties on the manufacture of paper, on pamphlets, papers, parts, or numbers, and on the progress of knowledge, of any kind of science or art, and on any social improvement, are unlawful.

1. Right to Petition

All persons have the right to petition the Crown or a Member of a House of Parliament for a redress of grievances.

## Freedom of Election

1. General Freedom

Elections ought to be free, without the interference of all undue influences from power, bribery, tumult, or other improper conduct, and no person by force of arms, malice, menacing, or otherwise, shall disturb any elector in their exercise of suffrage, and all hindrance is repugnant to the constitution.

1. Investigations of Fraud

All elections shall be investigated for fraud and corruption, and if undue influences are proven, the persons responsible shall be charged for their offence against the law and constitution.

# Frame of Government

*Intituled, an Act to Consolidate the laws and customs of the Constitution relating to the Frame of Government, Amend the Representation of the People, secure the independence of the House of Commons from the encroachments of the Crown, and render independent the Judiciary*

Whereas it is expedient to ameliorate the confusion on the principles and nature of the constitution by a consolidation of the laws and customs of the Constitution relating to the Frame of Government;

And Whereas it is expedient to take effectual Measures for correcting divers Abuses and encroachment of the Prerogative that have long prevailed in the Choice of Members to serve in the Commons House of Parliament, to apportion Members according to the respective Numbers of Persons among the several Counties, Cities, Towns, and Cinque Ports from Grand Divisions therein, to extend the Elective Franchise, and to diminish the Expense of Elections;

And Whereas an independent judiciary, separate from the legislative and executive powers, is necessary to secure good government;

Be it therefore enacted, by the Parliament of the British Isles in 1829, January 24, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords and Commons and the assent of the Crown, that as follows:

## Parliament

1. Legislative Function

The legislative power of the British Isles is vested a Parliament of two distinct branches, to wit, a House of Lords, and a House of Commons.

1. Composition of Houses of Parliament

The House of Lords is composed of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of York, twenty-four Bishops of the Church of England, one Archbishop and three Bishops of the Church of Ireland with the right of Sitting being regulated by a rotation of session by session, all Temporal Peers of England, sixteen Representative Peers elected for life by all Temporal Peers of Scotland, and twenty-eight Representative Peers elected for life by all Temporal Peers of Ireland, and shall be presided by a Lord Speaker selected by the Crown.

The House of Commons shall be composed of Members chosen by free election apportioned in number among Counties, Cities, Towns, and Cinque Ports, and from Grand Divisions therein so that each Grand Division shall be entitled to one Member, and the actual enumeration and division shall occur within every ten year term subsequent to the previous as Parliament shall by law direct, and no House of Commons shall have continuance for longer than three years.

1. Commons Vacancies

When vacancies happen in the Membership of the Commons; by non-acceptance, election to divers seats, death, mental derangement, resignation, acceptance of an office of profit, succession to a seat in the House of Lords, or by expulsion; the Crown shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies in time not less than five months.

1. Member of Parliament requirements

Each Member of the House of Commons shall have usually resided in the County, City, Town, or Cinque Port in which he is chosen for six months prior to his election, and shall possess, or shall have possessed, not less than fifty pounds in property, and shall not serve in an Office of Profit of the Crown, and shall have sworn an oath, or a solemn affirmation and declaration of the same, confirming acceptance of their seat.

Every Member of the House of Commons shall be paid a renumeration of one hundred pounds per month.

1. Eligibility for the Vote

All male householders in the British Isles, of the age of twenty-one years, who have been inhabitants of the county in which they intend to cast the vote twelve months immediately preceding the day of any election, and paying rates, or have graduated a Chartered University, and is not a peer, shall be entitled to a vote for the Member of the House of Commons for the Grand Division in which he resides.

1. Sessions of Parliament

The Lords and Commons shall meet in concurrent sessions with not less than forty members present, called by Decree of the Crown, and shall not be prorogued for longer than fifty days.

1. Election of a Speaker

The Commons shall have the power to select a Speaker, a Vice Speaker, a Serjeant-at-Arms and other officers for itself from outside its membership, and be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own Members; sit upon their own adjournments from day to day; and prepare bills, to be passed into laws.

Ministers of the Crown shall, despite their office of profit, be entitled to sit in the House of Commons to exercise every power of a Member except to vote on motions, resolutions, and bills, and they may be removed from the Commons by vote of the majority for the duration of the session.

1. Appointment of a Legislation Minister

For the recommendation of amelioration of bills and conformity of style, the publication and organization of the whole law, the management of the Parliamentary Library, and advisement of individual Members of Parliament, the House of Commons shall elect from outside its member a Legislation Minister to sit in its session.

1. Acts of Parliament

Parliament is empowered to make Acts for Peace, Welfare, and Good Government of the British Isles and her overseas colonies and holdings.

All bills shall be read three times in each House and win majorities of members therein in sessions of not less than forty members, before they pass to the eyes of the Crown, and if not negatived by the Crown not less than fourteen days upon passage shall be considered Acts of Parliament.

1. Revenue and Appropriation Bills

All bills for revenue and appropriation shall originate in the House of Commons, and the House of Lords may not negative or propose or concur with amendments as on other bills.

1. Impeachment

Officers of the Crown, offending against the State, by violating any part of this Constitution, mal-administration, or corruption, may be prosecuted, on the impeachment of Parliament.

## The Crown

1. Executive Authority

The executive government and authority of the government of the British Isles continues to be vested in the Crown, whose powers may be controlled, modified, and limited by the will of Parliament.

1. Vestment of the Crown

By the ancient constitution, the Crown is vested in an individual to exercise the Majesty of the People by right of Joint Declaration and Act of Parliament and no other principle, and the Crown is vacated by death, impeachment, abdication, and violation of the law.

At no time shall the Crown be vested in a Catholic by any Declaration or Act of Parliament.

1. Regency

By the ancient constitution, if the Crown is incapable of being exercised, the Powers of the Crown shall be vested in a Council of Regency, subject to regulation by Parliament.

It is hereby declared that a Council of Regency, consisting of the Lord President of the Privy Council for the time being, the Justice Minister for the time being, the head for the Treasury Council for the time being, the Interior Minister for the time being, and the holder of the Great Seal for the time being, shall exercise the full power of the crown in times of vacancy.

It is hereby declared that by concurrence of the majority, the Council of Regency may assent or negative Acts of Parliament, provided an assent so does not suspend or abrogate the Liberties and Securities of Freeborn Subjects.

1. Relation to Acts of Parliament

The Crown gives execution and effect to Acts of Parliament, directs administration through his Ministers and their subordinates, and appoints the forces of the state, excepting Militias of Abled Subjects, subject to the regulation of Acts of Parliament.

It is illegal for the Crown to suspend or repeal Acts of Parliament or any other parts of the law, and the pretended power of doing so is High Treason.

The Crown shall issue decrees, orders, and proclamations, countersigned by relevant Ministers responsible to Parliament, to effect and execute Acts of Parliament.

1. Surrender of Crown revenues, grants of Civil Lists

All revenues from lands owned by the Crown, or by titles merged therein, in the British Isles shall hereby be surrendered to Parliament in perpetuity, and Parliament shall, from time to time, make provisions of Treasury funds to the Crown for performance of public duties.

1. Creation of Peers

The Crown is empowered to create peers as they seek fit.

1. Condition of the State address

The Crown shall, at the commencement of every year, in the form of a message, lay before a Joint Session of Parliament the general condition of the state, and provide measures for its melioration.

1. Appointment to the Church

The Crown appoints the Archbishop of Canterbury and other Bishops of the Churches of England and Ireland, and the High Commissioner of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and shall protect the Established Churches of England, Scotland, and Ireland under law.

1. Privy Council

The Crown appoints and dismisses at their pleasure, with the consideration of the advice of Parliament, a Privy Council, which shall be headed by their ministers.

The Privy Council shall have the power to issue orders giving effect to laws, subject to the regulation of Acts of Parliament.

1. Appointment of Ministers

The Crown is advised on all legal matters by an Advocate-General, learned in the law.

The Crown appoints Ministers of the Crown, with the consideration of the advice of Parliament, to officer the ministries of the Treasury, Foreign Affairs, Interior, War, and the Navy.

1. Ministries of State

The Ministry of the Treasury manages fabrication, receipt, and disposal of money of the state, and prepares budgets and other levies of money to present to the House of Commons as Money Bills.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs manages the intercourse between the government of the British Isles and the governments or subjects of other states, subject to the regulation of Parliament.

The Ministry of the Interior manages the intercourse from one part of the British Isles to another, provides for the safe-keeping and maintenance of the Acts, Records, and Seals of the British Isles, communicates Acts of Parliament and decrees of the Crown, conducts the Census, and maintains the public peace, subject to the regulation of Parliament.

The Ministry of War manages the British Army and provides for the security of the shores, subject to the regulation of Parliament.

The Ministry of the Navy manages the British Navy, subject to the regulation of Parliament.

## Administration of Elections

1. Election Offices

An Election Master-General shall, at the pleasure of the House of Commons, direct the National Election Office to distribute Election Writs, receive returns, and direct and superintend all elections.

The Election Master-General shall appoint an Election Clerk for each Grand Division to direct an Election Office.

Each Election Clerk shall in turn appoint Polling Clerks for every parish or like polling district to establish a Polling Office so located to conduct the business of elections.

1. Vote-Making Certificates

Electors to the House of Commons shall register with the Polling Office of their polling district, where they shall present proof they are eligible, and their if this proof is valid they shall be given a Vote-Making Certificate signed by the Polling Clerk, or a deputy duly designated, and two of his aides, and a duplicate of the certificate shall be kept with the Polling Office.

The form of a Vote-Making Certificate is as follows:

Election district [].

Polling District Officers [].

This is a Vote-making Certificate, made to serve for the Parliament on the [] day of [] in the year [].

The day on which it is made is the [] of [] []

The person to whom it is to give a vote is [].

The persons, by whose declaration and vote this certificate is given, whose names and descriptions are here immediately underwritten; to wit,

[]

[]

[]

That which we hereby certify is, that, according to the several true declarations following, as contained in the nine numbered paragraphs following, he the said [] is entitled to give a vote, in the polling district above mentioned, on the election of a Member to serve for the grand division above mentioned, in the above-mentioned ensuing Parliament.

“1. The above-mentioned [] is present. His name and description, his name being herein and now immediately written by his own hand, here follows, to wit []

“2. He declares to us, that in his household, to wit [], for upwards of three months together, ending with the commencement of this day, he has been [*householder.*], or has graduated from the Chartered University of []. It is our belief, that this his declaration is true.

“3. He declares to us, that he is upwards of twenty-one years of age. It is our belief, that this his declaration is true.

“4. He declares to us, that he has duly paid Taxes and Rates of the Year to the Authorities and is not receiving Poor Relief. It is our belief, that this declaration is true.

“5. In the sight and hearing of all of us together, he has read aloud the whole of the printed part of this certificate.

“6. Also, divers lines, pitched upon by us at random, by which this certificate is required.

“7. It is the sincere belief of every one of us, that the lines so pitched upon by us were really read by him, and that they had not, any of them, been committed by him to memory, for the purpose of their falsely appearing to be read. They were not, in any part, repeated by him from the mouth of any other person.

If the Vote-Making Certificate of an elector is destroyed or lost, he shall make an application at the Polling Office for a new certificate with the requisite proof of eligibility.

Electors shall have their eligibility determined by comparison of their Vote-Making Certificate with the duplicate, and if this Certificate is valid they shall give their vote.

1. Election procedure

Upon the Dissolution of Parliament, all elections to office shall be held in a singular day by the National Election Office.

After the election, votes shall be counted by each Polling Office and the totals taken to the Election Office for the grand-division, where the duly elected Member of the House of Commons shall be proclaimed in the open.

## Judiciary

1. Supreme Court of Judicature

The judicial power of the British Isles is vested in a Supreme Court of Judicature, and all inferior courts as Parliament may, from time to time, enact as lawful. The judges of all courts shall hold their offices on good behaviour, and shall, for their stated time, receive a renumeration which shall not diminish nor increase during their term in office.

1. Extension of the Judicial Power

The judicial power extends to all cases, penal and civil, arising in the British Isles and her overseas colonies and holdings, to all cases affecting plenipotentiaries, to all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction, to all cases of marital dispute, to cases in which the Crown shall be a party, and between a freeborn subject and foreign states or subjects, and shall be at all times under Acts of Parliament.

1. Headship of the Judiciary

The Supreme Court of Judicature is headed by the Justice Minister, who shall manage the courts of the British Isles and issue reports to Parliament on the functioning of the courts and the law, and propose measures on their melioration as he sees fit.

## Oaths and Subscriptions; Incompatibility of and Exclusion of Offices, etc.

1. Oaths of Office

Any person chosen Privy Councillor, Minister of the Crown, Lord Spiritual or Temporal, Member of Parliament, or Judge, shall, before he proceeds to execute the duties of his place or office, make and subscribe the following declarations, viz.--

“I, A.B., do sincerely promise and swear, that I will support and defend, to the utmost of my power, the liberties and securities of freeborn Britons, the Frame of Government, and the Constitution. And I do solemnly swear, that I never will exercise any privilege to which I am or may become entitled, to disturb or weaken the government or established religion in the British Isles. And I do solemnly, in the presence of God, profess, testify, and declare that I do make this declaration, and every part thereof, in the plain and ordinary sense of the words of this oath, without any evasion, equivocation, or mental reservation whatsoever. So help me God.”

And any person chosen to either of the places or offices aforesaid, and also any person appointed or commissioned to any judicial, executive, military, or other office under the government, shall, before he enters on the discharge of the business of his place or office, take and subscribe the following declaration, and oaths or affirmations, viz.--

“I, A. B. do solemnly swear, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the government of the British Isles, and will support the declared liberties and securities, Frame of Government, and Constitution thereof. And I do solemnly swear that I renounce and abjure all allegiance, subjection and obedience to the individual holding the title of Elector of Hanover (as the case may be), and I recognize no other principle in the Succession of the Crown than Joint Declaration or Act of Parliament. So help me God.”

Provided, always, that every person upon objecting to being sworn, and stating, as the ground of such objection, that the taking of an oath is contrary to his religious belief, shall be permitted to make his solemn affirmation in the foregoing form, and subscribing the same, omitting the words “do solemnly swear” and “So help me God” and subjoining thereof “do solemnly, sincerely, and truly declare and affirm” and “This I do under the pains and penalties of perjury”.

Any person by Declaration or Act of Parliament to exercise the powers of the Crown shall, before he or she proceeds to exercise the duty of his place or office, unarmed, in the presence of a Joint Session of Parliament, make and subscribe the following declarations, viz.--

“I solemnly promise and swear to govern the people of the realm of the British Isles according to the Statutes in Parliament agreed on and the Laws and Customs of the same. And I will by my power cause law and justice in mercy to be executed in all my judgements. And I will to the utmost of my power maintain the laws of God, the true profession of the Gospel, and the Protestant Reformed Religion established by law. And I will preserve unto the bishops and clergy of this realm and to the churches committed to their charge all such rights and privileges as by law do or shall appertain unto them or any of them.”

1. Incompatibility and Exclusion from Offices

No holder of the Crown, Privy Councillor, Minister of the Crown, or judge of a Court, shall hold any other office or place save for membership in the Peerage, or receive any pension or salary from any other state or government or power whatever.

No Member of the House of Commons shall hold any office under the Crown or at pleasure of the Crown, or office in the appointment of public offices, or office or pension under grant from the Crown, or office under appointment from a court of judicature, or office chiefly executed by a deputy under grants from the Crown, or office on the pay of the Army, or Navy, or Militia, or Yeomanry, or Police.

1. Declaration of the Act

This Frame of Government of the British Isles, and the Act declaring the Liberties and Securities of the same, shall be part of the Law of the Land – and printed copies thereof shall be prefixed to the book containing the laws of the realm, in all future editions of said laws.

ASSENTED by his Lordship William Pleydell-Bouverie, Lord Folkestone, the Lawful Lord Chief Magistrate of the British Isles and its Establishments, Factories, and Colonies

SEALED by his Excellency Samuel Romilly, Keeper of the Great Seal of the British Isles.