

**DPA**

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Your reference: **DPA**

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Vernon  
Secretary, Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood

**DPA**

02 July 2018

*Dear Colonel Vernon,*

**Cancellation of Hubert Chesshyre's Membership of the Royal Victorian Order**

My brother, Hubert Chesshyre, for whom I hold Power of Attorney, has asked me to reply to your letter of 14th June 2018.

It came as a great surprise and shock to him, and me. We understood that the letter sent by Sir Alan Reid GCVO, then Secretary to the Royal Victorian Order, to **WM-A120** Hubert's accuser, in November 2015 had put an end to **WM-A120** attempts to have Hubert removed from the Order. I attach copies of correspondence in November 2015 between Sir Alan and Thomas Woodcock Esq CVO, Garter Principal King of Arms, in which it is made clear that the Court imposed an absolute discharge on Hubert and Sir Alan therefore declined to make a recommendation to Her Majesty The Queen that Hubert be removed from the order. Her Majesty was pleased to appoint Hubert to the Royal Victorian Order in recognition of his 42 years of service to her as an Officer of Arms and 15 years as Secretary to the Order of the Garter. I attach also a copy of a letter from Hubert's solicitor summarising the outcome of the case. In the light of the Court's finding, and in the absence of any further allegations, it seems perverse and unjust that Sir Alan's decision not to accept **WM-A120** allegations and concede to his request should now be overturned.

I should be grateful if you would forward this letter to whichever body considered the matter with a request to rescind their decision and allow Hubert, who is not in good health, to enjoy the few years remaining to him in the dignity and high esteem he deserves.

Yours sincerely

**DPA**

**DPA** Chesshyre  
**DPA**

**DPA**

Attachments:

1. Letter from Garter King of Arms to Secretary, The Royal Victorian Order, dated 04/11/2015
2. Letter from Secretary, The Royal Victorian Order, to Garter King of Arms dated 10/11/2015
3. Letter to Hubert Chesshyre Esq CVO from Chris Coss, Birds Solicitors, dated 15/10/2015

Attachment 1

4<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Sir Alan Reid, GCVO,  
Keeper of the Privy Purse,

**DPA**

I am writing in answer to Charlotte Robinson's letter of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015. I have obtained from Hubert Chesshyre's brother the enclosed copy of a letter written by Hubert Chesshyre's solicitors to him on 15 October 2015 after the conclusion of the case.

As you will see under the heading **Sentence** "*The Court imposed an absolute discharge. This means that there is no penalty for the allegations. .... The effect of an absolute discharge is that no punishment is imposed and, in addition, the matter is not considered to be a conviction except for limited purposes in connection with the Court, most usually if you are subsequently convicted of another matter in the future*".

You asked for some suitable wording to incorporate into a letter. You could write

"Mr. Chesshyre was given an absolute discharge and the matter is not considered to be a conviction. In these circumstances it would be wrong to submit a recommendation to Her Majesty The Queen".

I hope this is of some help.

Garter Principal King of Arms

Cc: Miss Charlotte Robinson, LVO

Attachment 2



17 1 NOV 2015

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

From: Sir Alan Reid GCVO

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Thomas,

10th November 2015

Thank you for your letter of 4th November, which you copied to Charlette Robinson of my office. I am most grateful to you for providing the precise wording which I can use to answer to **WM-A120** letter, and I have written to him today to this effect.

Yours sincerely

**DPA**

Secretary, Royal Victorian Order

Thomas Woodcock Esq CVO  
The College of Arms  
130 Queen Victoria Street  
London  
EC4V 4BT

CAB000187-3

Attachment 3

**DPA**

15th October 2015

Hubert Chesshyre

**DPA**

Dear Mr Chesshyre

**Your Prosecution**

I write following 8 days of trial hearing before a jury at Snaresbrook Crown Court to confirm the outcome of your case.

**Outcome of Case**

You faced 4 allegations and the first of these was quickly dismissed through legal argument as an abuse of procedure. Of the remaining 3 allegations, the jury found that, in relation to the 2 less serious charges, you had done the acts, but they could not come to a majority decision in relation to the most serious charge.

There followed considerable further legal argument before the final charge was judged to be "left on file". The court then turned to the issue of penalty for the 2 allegations the jury had found you to have committed.

**Sentence**

The Court imposed an absolute discharge. This means that there is no penalty for the allegations.

The court made no costs order against you, no surcharge order and no court charge.

The probation service declined to consider any supervision from their service appropriate and no restraining order or notification requirements were imposed.

The effect of an absolute discharge is that no punishment is imposed and, in addition, the matter is not considered to be a conviction except for limited purposes in connection with the Court, most usually if you are subsequently convicted of another matter in the future.

It is therefore with considerable pleasure I am able to confirm that your case is now finally at an end and I will shortly be closing your files.

**Irrelevant**

**Irrelevant**

**Irrelevant**

**Irrelevant**

Yours sincerely

Chris Coss

Direct e-mail:

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Direct Dial:

DPA