

Position of the Lord Great Chamberlain following the demise of the monarch

Request:

Since the 1999 reforms, the holder of the office of Lord Great Chamberlain has been an ex officio member of the House of Lords. Given the peculiar arrangement for the succession to the office of Lord Great Chamberlain, with various people having hereditary "shares" in the office, I would like to know:

- 1) Who is presently expected to hold the office after the Demise of the Crown?
- 2) How is the choice made? From what I have read the office is held every alternate reign by the Marquesses of Cholmondeley (as he holds a 1/2 share), but how are those with smaller shares dealt with?
- 3) Is it possible for a woman to perform the roles of the office, or must she appoint a deputy?

Response:

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOIA") provides a right of access, subject to specified exemptions, to recorded information held by a public authority. In the case of the House of Lords, the rights of access apply to recorded information held by the House of Lords Administration.

1) Who is presently expected to hold the office after the Demise of the Crown?

The House Administration holds recorded information on who is "presently expected" to hold the office, as per your question.

The office of Lord Great Chamberlain is hereditary and alternates by reign between the heirs of certain families. As the position is currently held by the Marquess of Cholmondeley for the duration of the Queen's reign, it is expected to pass down the Carrington line next. On that basis, it is expected to pass to Rupert Carrington, 7th Baron Carrington for the next monarch's reign. However, it should be noted that the appointment of the Lord Great Chamberlain is not determined by the House of Lords Administration.

2) How is the choice made? From what I have read the office is held every alternate reign by the Marquesses of Cholmondeley (as he holds a 1/2 share), but how are those with smaller shares dealt with?

As mentioned above, the office alternates by reign between the heirs of certain families¹. With regards to the shares, please see overleaf. Given that your question is of an historical nature, there is likely to be information publicly available for you to consult outside the framework of the Freedom of Information Act. We are aware of a 2005 publication entitled "The Office of Lord Great Chamberlain of England v.1: An historical and modern study" by A J Baker which you should be able to borrow from your library service.

¹ Further background information can be found in the following House of Lords library briefing notes and article on Debrett's:

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/LLN-2015-007/LLN-2015-007.pdf>

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/LLN-2010-007/LLN-2010-007.pdf>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20140106031947/http://www.debretts.com/people/royal-family/the-royal-household/great-officers-of-state.aspx>

3) Is it possible for a woman to perform the roles of the office, or must she appoint a deputy?

The House Administration does not hold the answer to your question in recorded form.

Shares

The following information sets out the position in 2013. Entitlement to the Office of Lord Great Chamberlain is held in the following percentages:

1.	The Willoughby de Eresby Share Jane, Lady Willoughby de Eresby (born 1934) the whole share	25%
2.	The Carrington Share Sub-divided between:	25%
(a)	the four daughters of the 4th Lord Nunburnholme who was the grandson of Lady Marjorie Cecilia Wynn-Carrington (1880-1968) wife of the 2nd Baron Nunburnholme and eldest daughter of the Marquess of Lincolnshire:	
	(i) Hon. Lorraine Mary Charmian Wilson (born 1959) unmarried	1¼%
	(ii) Hon. Mrs Dent (born 1960)	1¼%
	(iii) Hon. Mrs. Williams (born 1963) twin	1¼%
	(iv) Hon. Mrs. Garton (born 1963) twin	1¼%
(b)	Nicholas Llewellyn Palmer (born 1999) great-grandson of Lady Alexandra Augusta Palmer (1881-1955) 2nd daughter of the Marquess of Lincolnshire.	5%
(c)	Heirs of Lady Ruperta Wynn-Carrington (1883-1963), 3rd daughter of the Marquess of Lincolnshire and wife of the 7th Earl of Dartmouth being the representatives of her five daughters:	
	(i) Jonathan Mansfeldt Findlay (born 1933) son of Lady Mary Cecilia Findlay (1906-2003), eldest daughter of the 7th Earl of Dartmouth	1%
	(ii) Bryan Ronald Basset (born 1932) son of Lady Elizabeth Basset, DCVO, (1908-2000), 2nd daughter of the 7th Earl of Dartmouth	1 %
	(iii) Colonel James Gustavus Hamilton-Russell born 1938), son of Lady Diana Matthews, formerly Hamilton-Russell (1910-1970), 3rd daughter of the 7th Earl of Dartmouth	1%
	(iv) Lady Barbara Kwiatkowski (born 1916) 4th daughter of 7th Earl of Dartmouth. She will be succeeded by her son Jan Witold Kwiatkowski (born 1945).	1%
	(v) The 8th Marquess of Donegall (born 1952) son of Lady Josceline Gabrielle Legge (1918-1995) subsequently Marchioness of Donegall, youngest daughter of the 7th Earl of Dartmouth.	1%
(d)	The 10th Earl of Albemarle (born 1965) grand-son of Lady Judith Sydney. Mee Wynn-Carrington (1889-1928), 4th daughter of the Marquess of Lincolnshire and wife of Viscount Bury who after her death became 9th Earl of Albemarle	5%
(e)	William Nigel Henry Legge-Bourke grandson of Lady Victoria Alexandrina Wynn-Carrington (1892-1966) subsequently Legge-Bourke and afterwards Weld-Forester, 5th and youngest daughter of the Marquess of Lincolnshire	5%
3.	The Cholmondeley Share The 7th Marquess of Cholmondeley (born 1960) the whole share	50%