BUCKINGHAM PALACE

From: Mr James Chalmers

7th September 2026

Dear Sir Geoffrey,

Further to the request by Mr Clive Betts MP at the hearing of the Public Accounts Committee on 13th July, I am writing to set out the arrangements for subletting three cottages under the lease of Royal Lodge by Mr Mountbatten-Windsor, such as I have been informed about them.

May I start by explaining that this is not information that we would normally hold in the Royal Household. We have obtained this information from the Household of Mr Mountbatten-Windsor for the purposes requested by your committee and are sharing it with you in the interests of transparency and openness. This is with the agreement of Mr Mountbatten-Windsor. I have not had access to the underlying documentation or historical records. My understanding is as follows:

- During the tenancy, the option to sublet three cottages was not exercised to its capacity. For most of Mr Mountbatten-Windsor's tenancy only one cottage was sub-let, at below market rate, to an in-situ tenant who worked for the Royal Family.
- Since late 2021 this right has been further utilised. For a period of less than a year, three cottages were sub-let simultaneously. This generated a combined income, before maintenance and general expenses, of just over two thousand Pounds per month. The rent figures were reflective of a percentage of salary and below market rates.

While you kindly suggested at the hearing that you would be willing to treat this information in confidence, I can confirm that Mr Mountbatten-Windsor is content for it to be in the public domain.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

James Chalmers

Keeper of the Privy Purse and Treasurer to The King

Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP
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