

Committee:	Date:
Freedom Applications Committee	10 February 2022
Subject: Freedoms for Heads of Missions	Confidential
Report of: Remembrancer	For Decision
Report Author: Bruce Hunt, City Remembrancer's Office	

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

This report is exempt by virtue of the paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Specifically, paragraphs the report contains sensitive information which may be exempted under the Act, and as this cannot be presented to Members as a separate appendix this report needs to be considered in closed session. It is considered that information falling under the following paragraphs outweighs the public interest in disclosing information:

1)	Information relating to any individual
----	--

Summary

1. Appended to this report is a list of countries for which an offer of the Freedom might wish to be extended to the Head of Mission by the City Corporation. The list has been compiled in collaboration with Innovation and Growth and is intended to reflect current priority markets and recognise those countries holding presiding over notable intergovernmental fora. The list should be read in conjunction with the criteria for nominating diplomatic and political figures agreed on 9th October 2017 and attached as Appendix 2.

Points for Discussion

2. Members should note and consider the following points:
 - a) The nominations of the Heads of Mission of Portugal, Honduras and Kazakhstan reported previously to the Committee have all received endorsement from the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office and have been agreed by Common Council. The Remembrancer's Office is in contact with the Embassies to identify suitable dates for the ceremonies.
 - b) At a previous meeting, the Committee asked for greater analysis of the Heads of Mission in order to determine which should be prioritised in offering the Freedom. The Remembrancer's Office has had discussions with Innovation and Growth and proposes the list set out at Appendix 1 for Members' consideration.
 - c) Separately, the Remembrancer has been contacted regarding the possible nominations of the Ambassador of Croatia by an Alderman and the Ambassador of Hungary by a Liveryman. FCDO advice is being sought on the nominations.

- d) The Lord Mayor and the Chair of Policy raised with the US Chargé d’Affaires the possibility of offering John Kerry (US Special Envoy on Climate Change) the Freedom in recognition of his work at COP26. The Embassy has had positive discussions with Secretary Kerry’s Office and the Remembrancer’s Office have also contacted FCDO who are supportive of the idea.

Recommendation

3. The Committee is asked to note the points above and subject to Members’ views, agree that:
- An offer of the Freedom should be made to the Heads of Mission of Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Canada, UAE and the EU Representation in the UK on the nomination of the Lord Mayor, and the Chair of Policy.
 - Subject to FCDO advice, the nominations of the Ambassadors of Hungary and of Croatia proceed on a personal basis.
 - The nomination of John Kerry proceed in the name of the Lord Mayor and Chair of Policy.

Appendices:

- Appendix 1: Heads of Mission to be considered to be admitted to the Freedom
- Appendix 2: Guidance on the nomination of diplomats for the Freedom of the City

Contact:

Bruce Hunt
bruce.hunt@cityoflondon.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

Heads of Mission to be considered to be admitted to the Freedom

EUROPEAN

Nation	In post since	Notes
European Union	February 2020	EU's first Ambassador to the UK.
Ireland	August 2017	Established Market The Lord Mayor has expressed his intention to nominate the Ambassador during his Mayoralty.
Italy	January 2018	Co-host of COP26.
Germany	Vacant	Priority Market Assumed G7 Presidency in 2022.
Czech Republic	Vacant	Assumes Presidency of the European Council July 2022
Sweden	August 2021	Assumes Presidency of the European Council Jan 2023
Spain	September 2021	Established Market Assumes Presidency of the European Council Jul 2023
Luxembourg	August 2017	Established Market NB The FCDO had been approached following a suggestion that 2 Liverymen might nominate the Ambassador for the Freedom, but no response has been received despite several chases.
France	September 2019	Priority Market Assumed Presidency of the European Council Jan 2022 NB Suggestion would be not to proceed at the moment given political sensitivities.

REST OF THE WORLD

Nation	In post since	Notes
Japan	February 2021	Priority Market State Visit expected in 2020 postponed because of Covid-19.

Mexico	April 2021	LM expected to visit
Canada	May 2021	Priority Market Previous High Commissioner received the Freedom.
UAE	June 2019	Extensive engagement during the last Mayoralty.
US	Vacant	Priority Market
Indonesia	December 2020	Assumed G20 Presidency in 2022.
India	June 2020	Priority Market Assumes G20 Presidency in 2023 <i>NB Previous High Commisisoner declined the Freedom on the basis that he was prevented from receiving such awards while in Office.</i>
Brazil	October 2018	Assumes G20 Presidency in 2024
Rwanda	Vacant	Should assume Chair in Office of Commonwealth in 2022
China	June 2021	Priority Market <i>NB Suggestion would be not to proceed at the moment given political sensitivities.</i>
Singapore	September 2020	Priority Market
Cambodia	September 2020	Assumed Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2022

APPENDIX 2

Process for Members on nominating ambassadors for the Freedom of the City

Overview

This document provides guidance to Members on nominating ambassadors for the Freedom of the City. Specifically, this guidance outlines information on who is able to nominate an ambassador, criteria for nomination, and the timing for nominating an ambassador.

This guidance is in place in order to ensure consistency in the way in which ambassadors are awarded the Freedom – including the type of Freedom they receive, who nominates them and the hospitality they receive. At the end of this document is a 'start to finish' process map for nominating an ambassador for the Freedom of the City.

Who is able to nominate an ambassador:

Any Member of the Court of Common Council may recommend an ambassador for a Freedom of the City, but this does not necessitate that they will be a formal nominator. In order to ensure consistency in who nominates an ambassador, the Freedom Applications Committee will decide who is best placed to nominate. In order to provide adequate profile to ambassadors, nominators will likely be senior City Corporation Members such as the Lord Mayor, the Chief Commoner and/or the Chair of Policy.

In some instances it may be appropriate for the Member recommending an individual for the Freedom to be one of the formal nominators. This may be, for instance, when a particular Member has a relationship or tie with that country or individual, which makes them well placed to nominate. Typically, a Member recommending an individual – as well as the nominators – will be involved in the hospitality provided when the Freedom is awarded. The level of hospitality provided will be considered on a case-by-case basis, determined by the significance of the relationship between the country in question and the City of London.

For all Freedoms for ambassadors, one nominator will be drawn from the Court of Common Council, and one from the Court of Aldermen. Any Freedom for an ambassador must be first approved by the Freedom Applications Committee, and then then the Court of Common Council. Without both approvals, the Freedom will not be awarded.

Criteria for nomination:

Ambassadors should only be nominated if they fulfil certain criteria. This is to ensure that the Freedom maintains its prestige and special status, and so that there is consistency when awarding the Freedom to ambassadors. The following criteria should be met before an individual is nominated:

- The individual has been an ambassador for at least six months;
- They are the ambassador to a country that the City of London has clear ties to, or relationship with;
- They have made a significant contribution to the life of the Capital or in the field of diplomatic life;
- The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) does not object to the nomination – *note, this engagement will take place between the City of London Corporation and the FCDO once a Member has recommended an individual for the Freedom.*

Without meeting these criteria, an individual will not be eligible to receive the Freedom. Only in special circumstances will an individual be eligible if they do not meet the above criteria – in such occasions this will be at the discretion of the Chair of Policy and the Chairman of the Freedom Applications Committee.

When to nominate an ambassador:

The timing of when to nominate an ambassador for the Freedom should also be considered. The following occasions are when an ambassador can be – although does not have to be – nominated:

- Following the ambassador hosting – or helping to facilitate – a state visit from the country they represent;
- Just before a long-serving ambassador is due to retire from their position;
- Following an ambassador supporting the Chair of Policy and/or the Lord Mayor on an overseas visit.

This list is non-exhaustive and should be used as a guide. It may be that other occasions are appropriate – in such a case, the Member recommending an individual should in the first instance discuss the matter with the Chair of Policy and Chairman of the Freedom Applications Committee.

How to nominate an ambassador:

The following process applies for nominating an ambassador for the Freedom:

1. If a Member of the Court of Common Council wishes to recommend an individual for the Freedom, they should first ensure that the ambassador meets the criteria as outlined in this document.
2. The Member should then write to the Clerk to the Freedom Applications Committee (Rhiannon Leary – Executive Officer the Court of Aldermen, rhiannon.leary@cityoflondon.gov.uk) stating their request.
3. The Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court, along with IG and Remembrancer's Office will carry out basic checks, and prepare the request for consideration at the Freedom Applications Committee. If the Committee determines that the nomination is inappropriate then they will state the reasons why. If the Committee agree that the nomination is appropriate, then it will then decide who should be the formal nominators.
4. The nomination will then be put to a meeting of the Common Council for approval.

5. The Remembrancer's Department and Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court will, following approval by Common Council, undertake to arrange publicity and hospitality. The nominators – and any Member who has been closely involved with the recommendation – will be involved with the hospitality.