

### Orders of British Knighthood at Present in Use

<i>Order</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Total Number in Order</i>	<i>Specially Reserved for Commonwealth</i>	<i>Qualifications</i>	<i>Who Recommends Appointments</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Garter	K.G.	–	25	None		Queen.	
Thistle	K.T.	–	16	None	Scottish order.	Queen.	
Bath	G.C.B. (Milit.)	1st	55	2	Rear Admiral, Major-General, Air Vice-Marshal, or above.	“Appropriate minister of State”.	* No provision for women in order.  † Limited to 19 in two years.  ‡ Limited to 40 per annum.
	G.C.B. (Civil)	1st	27	None	“Services to Crown or public duties”	Queen.*	
	K.C.B. (Milit.)	2nd	177	2	Captain, Colonel, Group-Captain, or above.	“Appropriate minister of State”.	
	K.C.B. (Civil)	2nd	117	None	(As G.C.B. (Civil).)	Queen†.	
	C.B. (Milit.)	3rd	860	30	Lt. Commander, Major, Squadron Leader, or above – must have B.E.M. or mention in dispatches.	“Appropriate minister of State”.	
	C.B. (Civil)	3rd	565	None	(As G.C.B. (Civil).)	Queen‡.	
Merit	O.M.	–	24	None	Military services, also art, literature and science.	Queen.	
St. Michael and St. George	G.C.M.G. K.C.M.G. C.M.G.	1st 2nd 3rd	100 335 1,330	65 180 912	Political or administrative services (other than military) also foreign affairs.	Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, at the instance of the “appropriate minister of State”.	A civil order. No provision for women in higher classes.
Royal Victorian Order	G.C.V.O. K.C.V.O.; D.C.V.O. C.V.O. M.V.O. M.V.O.	1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th	Unlimited Unlimited Unlimited Unlimited Unlimited	None None None None None	For personal services to the Sovereign and awarded as a special mark of the Royal favour.	Queen.	Conferred on men and women in all classes.
British Empire	G.B.E. (Milit.)	1st	25	2	“Meritorious service within or connected with, any other part or parts of the Commonwealth”.	For United Kingdom : British Prime Minister or “in the case of a Commonwealth country by the appropriate minister of State for the said Commonwealth country”.	Vacancies in the order are filled by the Department who recommended deceased Knight.
	G.B.E. (Civil)	1st	77	33			
	K.B.E./D.B.E. (Milit.)	2nd	176	20			
	K.B.E./D.B.E. (Civil)	2nd	476	221			
	C.B.E. (Milit.)	3rd	1,035	259	(To persons not eligible for other classes).	(As for other classes).	If vacancies in first three classes are not filled in any one year they can be filled in succeeding years. In first three classes there are a maximum number of creations in any year. Unfilled places in classes 4 and 5 remain in abeyance.
	C.B.E. (Civil)	3rd	3,809	1,277			
	O.B.E. (Milit.)	4th	228 p.a.	80 p.a.			
	O.B.E. (Civil)	4th	705 p.a.	150 p.a.			
M.B.E. (Milit.)	5th	391 p.a.	120 p.a.				
M.B.E. (Civil)	5th	1,338 p.a.	262 p.a.				
	B.E.M. (Milit. or Civil)	Medal	Unlimited	Unlimited			

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Companions of Honour	C.H.	–	50	Not specified		Queen.	(Apparently British Prime Minister is consulted).
Knights Bachelor	“Sir”	–	Unlimited	Not specified	There are no Statutes governing their creation.	Queen (apparently on recommendation of appropriate minister of State in Commonwealth country).	The Knights Bachelor are not members of any order of chivalry.
Distinguished Service Order	D.S.O.	(Milit.)	Unlimited	Unlimited	Awarded in War-time.	Appropriate minister.	
Imperial Service Order	I.S.O. I.S.M.	–	740 Unlimited	180 Unlimited	Awarded to Public Servants after long period of service. Commonwealth awards are very selective.	Appropriate minister of State	Medal awarded to lower public servants.
<i>Lesser Distinctions</i> Air Force Cross	A.F.C.	(Milit.) (Milit.)	Unlimited Unlimited	Unlimited Unlimited	Officers and others – for distinguished service in air – not in presence of enemy.	Appropriate minister of State.	
Royal Red Cross	R.R.C.  A.R.R.C.	1st  2nd	Unlimited but select Unlimited but select		To members of any of the officially recognised nursing services for devotion and competency displayed in service with armed forces hospitals.	In Commonwealth, by Prime Minister at instance of appropriate minister.	
Queen’s Police Medal	–	Police	Unlimited	Unlimited	“Acts of exceptional courage and skill at cost of life, or conspicuous devotion to duty”.	Minister in Charge of Police.	
Queen’s Fire Services Medal	–	Firemen	Unlimited	Unlimited	“Acts of exceptional courage and skill at cost of life, or conspicuous devotion to duty”.	Minister of Internal Affairs.	
Queen’s Commendation for Valuable Services in the Air	–	Airmen	Unlimited	Unlimited		Minister of Defence.	