



Government of Bermuda
The Cabinet Office

6th November 2025

Ms. Sam Strangeways
Investigations Editor
The Royal Gazette
2 Par-la-Ville Road
Hamilton HM 08

Dear Ms. Strangeways,

Your initial request of 8th August 2025 and subsequent additional request of 14th October 2025 refer. Adopting your numbering I would respond to the request as follows:

1. Whilst Bermuda has verbally signaled its desire to achieve full membership in Caricom to the Conference of the Heads of Government of Caricom, the "formal request" for full membership is made on submission of a draft membership agreement. That process is ongoing and subject to consultation with and the consideration of the UK Government. As such any record in this regard is prima facie exempt from disclosure pursuant to Section 32(1)(a) and (b) of the Act.
2. The Entrustment by which Bermuda was granted permission to engage in full membership negotiations is dated 20th February 2024 and is enclosed herewith.
3. A fulsome search indicates that there are no records relative to this request.
4. A fulsome search indicates that there are no records relative to this request.
5. The Entrustment of March 2016 is enclosed herewith.

On 25th September 2025 you requested an internal review pursuant to Section 41(h) of the Act. This decision and provision of a substantive response is made pursuant to that request under Section 43 of the Act, and I do therefore in accordance with Section 43(2)(b)(iii) notify you of your right to refer this matter to the Information Commissioner.

Yours faithfully,

Maj. Marc T. Telemaque, LVO, JP
Secretary to the Cabinet

Encls...

cc: Caitlin Conyers, Senior Investigations Officer



**Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office**

David Rutley MP

Minister for Americas, Caribbean and the
Overseas Territories
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H.E. The Governor
Governor's Office
Bermuda

20 February 2024

Dear Governor,

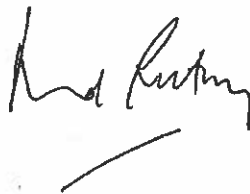
ENGAGEMENT WITH CARICOM

1. Further to our recent exchanges regarding engagement by the Bermuda government with CARICOM, I am writing to confirm that, on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom, I authorise you to negotiate with CARICOM and its member states for Bermuda to become a full member of that organisation.
2. This Letter of Entrustment is given on the condition that you keep the UK updated on the progress of negotiations with CARICOM. The proposed text of any instrument, whether binding or otherwise, for Bermuda's full membership of CARICOM must also be submitted to the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office and a further Letter of Entrustment will be required before Bermuda enters into any agreement for Full Membership.
3. The United Kingdom Government will not approve any agreement for full membership unless it meets the following conditions:
 - a. That the representative of the Government of Bermuda abstains on any issues under discussion in CARICOM that have a direct bearing on external relations, defence or security and disassociate themselves from any statement made by CARICOM on such matters.
 - b. That the costs arising from Full Membership will be borne by the Government of Bermuda. All financial obligations and commitments arising from Bermuda's membership of CARICOM will be the sole responsibility of the Government of Bermuda unless agreed otherwise in writing by the United Kingdom Government.
 - c. The terms of the letter of general entrustment, dated 30 September 2009, as supplemented by the letter of entrustment of 11 March 2016, will

continue to apply to the negotiation and conclusion of any agreements within the ambit of CARICOM.

- d. The United Kingdom Government retains the authority to overrule or amend any proposed agreements, say if there is a prospect of conflict with other international commitments or obligations or policies of the UK.
 - e. No agreement or other instrument will be signed by the Government of Bermuda without the prior approval of the United Kingdom Government.
4. The Secretary of State also consents to your delegating to the Premier of Bermuda in accordance with section 62 (2) of the Constitution of Bermuda, the responsibility for the negotiations described in paragraph 1, subject to all the conditions set out in this letter.
5. I must make clear that the United Kingdom retains overall responsibility for the external affairs of Bermuda, and that the special responsibility of you, the Governor, for external affairs and defence under section 14, 17-20 and the Constitution of the Bermuda is in no way affected by this letter. If a delegation as described in paragraph 4 is made, the Premier [or other Minister] must keep the Governor fully informed about developments in relation to the delegated matters and will take particular care where any activities may have the potential to impact on any of the Governor's special responsibilities under section 62 of the Constitution. The Premier is to inform you as Governor, of any proposed instrument, whether binding or otherwise, for Bermuda's full membership of CARICOM, so that you can submit it to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office for approval in accordance with paragraph 2.
6. This letter is without prejudice to the terms of the Letter of Entrustment of 1 September 2009 (the General Entrustment)), as supplemented by the Letter of Entrustment of 11 March 2016, which remain in effect, and may be adjusted in the light of circumstances arising in the future.
7. I should be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this letter and confirm that the Government of Bermuda accepts the authority delegated above, subject to the understandings and conditions set out above in relation to such delegation, which will come into effect on the date of your letter as Governor of Bermuda, confirming acceptance thereof.

Yours sincerely,



David Rutley MP
Minister for Americas, Caribbean and the Overseas Territories

I so confirm on Behalf of the Government of Bermuda





**Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office**

King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

11 March 2016

**Governor of Bermuda
Government House
Hamilton
Bermuda**

Dear Governor,

1. Further to the letter of general entrustment, dated 30 September 2009 ("the 2009 entrustment"), I have the honour to address you on the subject of the matter of the external affairs that are delegated to the Government of Bermuda.
2. This letter in no way affects, or replaces the terms of the 2009 entrustment, which will continue to apply.
3. Recognising that the Government of the United Kingdom must continue to be responsible for the external affairs of Bermuda, the Government of Bermuda is encouraged to play an active role in building productive links with the wider world and in particular to engage directly with Caribbean regional groups where appropriate.
4. Thus the United Kingdom Government hereby grants general authority to the Government of Bermuda to commence formal negotiations, and to conclude agreements, whether bilateral or multilateral, in the following areas of external affairs, subject to the conditions as set out in paragraphs 3 to 8 of the 2009 entrustment:
 - a. agreements within the ambit of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC), Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), or any other Caribbean regional organisation or institution of which Bermuda is a member or an associate member, as they relate to Bermuda, and
 - b. other Caribbean regional affairs of interest to or affecting Bermuda.

5. I should be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this letter and confirm that the Government of Bermuda accept the authority delegated in paragraph 4 above, subject to the conditions set out in paragraphs 3 to 8 of the 2009 entrustment. This entrustment will come into effect on the date of your letter confirming acceptance thereof.



James Doddridge MP
Minister for Africa, the Overseas Territories, and Caribbean

Michael D. Hill
22/3/16