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Civil list

A **civil list** is a list of individuals to whom money is paid by the government, typically for service to the state or as honorary pensions. It is a term especially associated with the United Kingdom and its former colonies of Canada, India, New Zealand, Singapore and many more. It was originally defined as expenses supporting the monarch.

United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom, the Civil List was, until 2011, the annual grant that covered some expenses associated with the Sovereign performing their official duties, including those for staff salaries, state visits, public engagements, ceremonial functions and the upkeep of the Royal Households. The cost of transport and security for the Royal Family, together with property maintenance and other sundry expenses, were covered by separate grants from individual government departments. The Civil List was abolished under the Sovereign Grant Act 2011.

History

Following the Glorious Revolution of 1688, the expenses relating to the support of the monarch were largely separated from the ordinary expenses of the state managed by the Exchequer.

Civil List Act 1714 [show]

Act of Parliament

The abolition of the Civil List was announced in the spending review statement to the House of Commons on 20 October 2010 by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne. In its place, he said, "the Royal Household will receive a new Sovereign Support Grant linked to a portion of the revenue of the Crown Estate". The Crown Estate is a statutory corporation, run on commercial lines by the Crown Estate Commissioners and generates revenue for HM Treasury every year (an income surplus of £210.7 million for the year ended 31 March 2010).^[9] This income is received by the Crown and given to the state as a result of the agreement reached in 1760 that has been renewed at the beginning of each subsequent reign. The Sovereign Grant Act 2011 received royal assent on 18 October 2011. Under this Act, the Sovereign Grant now funds all of the official expenditure of the monarchy, not just the expenditure previously borne by the Civil List.

Civil List pensions

These are pensions traditionally granted by the Sovereign from the Civil List upon the recommendation of the First Lord of the Treasury. The Civil List Act 1837 applied the condition that any new pensions should be "granted to such persons only as have just claims on the royal beneficence or who by their personal services to the Crown, or by the performance of duties to the public, or by their useful

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| <u>Long title</u> | An act for the better Support of his Majesty's Household, and of the Honour and Dignity of the Crown of the United Kingdom; and for preventing Accumulation of Arrears in the Payments out of the Civil List Revenues. |
| <u>Citation</u> | <u>44 Geo. 3. c. 80</u> |
| | Dates |
| <u>Royal assent</u> | 20 July 1804 |
| | Other legislation |
| <u>Repealed by</u> | <u>Statute Law Revision Act 1872</u> |
| | Status: Repealed |

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| Civil List (Ireland) Act [show] 1805 |
| Act of Parliament |

discoveries in science and attainments in literature and the arts, have merited the gracious consideration of their sovereign and the gratitude of their country."^[10] Famous recipients include William Wordsworth,^[11] William Barnes,^[12] Geraldine Jewsbury,^[13] Margaret Oliphant,^[14] Christopher Logue,^[15] and Molly Parkin.^[16] (Lord Byron is often said to have received a civil list pension, but his mother was the actual recipient.^[17]) As of 1911, a sum of £1,200 was allotted each year from the Civil List, in addition to the pensions already in force. From a Return issued in 1908, the total of Civil List pensions payable in that year amounted to £24,665. In the financial year 2012-13 the annual cost of Civil List pensions paid to 53 people was £126,293.^[18] New Civil List pensions continue to be awarded occasionally.^[16]

Canada

In Canada the civil list was a common term during the pre-confederation period; it referred to the payment for all officials on the government payroll. There was much controversy as to whether the list would be controlled by the governor or by the Legislative Assembly. The Assembly demanded control of all money matters, while the governors worried that if the Assembly was given this power, then



Parliament of the United Kingdom

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| <u>Long title</u> | An act to amend an act made in the parliament of Ireland, for the support of the honour and dignity of his Majesty's crown in Ireland; and for granting to his Majesty a civil list establishment under certain provisions and regulations. |
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| <u>Citation</u> | <u>45 Geo. 3. c. 76</u> |
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| <u>Dates</u> |
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| <u>Royal assent</u> | 2 July 1805 |
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Civil List Act 1820 [[show](#)]