

CabinetOffice



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Mr B Fleming TEP
Hungerford
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02 February 2006

Dear Mr Fleming,

Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM) for service between 1957 and 1966

Thank you for your letters of 31 October to Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood and 30 November 2005 sent to Ceremonial Secretariat, Sir Robin Janvrin KCB KCVO, and William Chapman at 10 Downing Street regarding the Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM) award.

I believe you are now aware that Her Majesty The Queen has agreed that British veterans who served in Malaysia between 1957 and 1966 may accept the generous offer from the King and Government of Malaysia of the Pingat Jasa Malaysia to mark their outstanding commitment and the service they provided at this time.

The decision to accept the Pingat Jasa Malaysia has been a complicated matter, involving several government departments. It involved making a special exception to two of the rules governing the acceptance and wear of foreign awards. However, it was not judged appropriate for the medal to be worn.

We are aware that in recent years the Australian and New Zealand Governments have agreed to allow their veterans to both receive and wear certain campaign medals awarded by foreign governments. However both countries withdrew from the Imperial Honours System some years ago. Any approval which The Queen may have given, as Queen of Australia or New Zealand, for Australian and New Zealand citizens to wear particular medals, would have been on the advice of Her appropriate Commonwealth Ministers.

Her Majesty accepted the advice of the HD Committee; whose role it is to ensure that the integrity of the UK Honours System is maintained. Whilst not in any way detracting from those who served in Malaysia between 1957 and 1966, the HD Committee did not consider there was a strong case for these rules to be disregarded entirely for the



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Pingat Jasa Malaysia and, indeed, doing so would compromise previous awards and the integrity of the system.

Applications for the PJM and its subsequent distribution will essentially be a matter for the Malaysian authorities. Large numbers may be involved. It will take some time for the applications to be processed and for the medals to be distributed. The Malaysian High Commission (MHC) will be able to advise. Veterans' Organisations and Regimental Associations will also be involved.

I hope you find this information useful,

Yours sincerely

PP Richardson

**Eleri Pengelly
Deputy Ceremonial Officer**

