



## BARRY FLEMING TEP

Richard Benyon MP  
House of Commons  
London, SW1A 0A

13<sup>th</sup> August 2006

Dear Richard,

### PINGAT JASA MALAYSIA (PJM) DATE OFFERED TO THE BRITISH

I have been told that the PJM was offered to all Commonwealth countries in 2004 - to all 'communion' countries at the same time.

Baroness Symons stated in a written reply in the Lords, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2005, that the medal had not been offered to the UK at that time. She also stated that it would be rejected if it were to be offered.

Mr Straw stated in a written reply in the Commons on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2005 that the PJM was initially raised with him in March (2005). That would be some six months after Australia and New Zealand were offered the medal.

It is difficult to understand why the Malaysians would offer the medal to the British at a different time to, for example, Australia - or, indeed, how they could refrain from offering it in the context of the medal's Citation and the media and diplomatic coverage the medal received throughout the world in 2004.

I write to ask you if you would, on my behalf, write to Margaret Beckett asking her:

1. to confirm the date that the PJM was first offered to the British, and
2. if she has any explanation as to why the British should be offered this Medal so long after the other countries, and
3. to confirm that the medal offer had not been rejected by the British prior to Mr Straw's Common's reply referring to March 2005 as the operative date.

To save you time, please feel free to use a copy of this letter to send to Mrs Beckett.

Thank you for your help.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely



Barry Fleming

Cc: Your Constituency Office: 6 Cheap Street, Newbury, RG14 5DD  
Denis Brennan, Ceremonial Officer, Cabinet Office  
Ian McCartney MP, Minister of State for Trade, FCO

References: Lord's Hansard 11 Jan 2005 (Column WA34)  
Common's Hansard 19 Oct 2005 (Column 1090/1W)