

RESTRICTED - HONOURS

From: Jennifer Snell
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PRIME MINISTER

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FORFEITURE OF HONOURS – ROLF HARRIS

The Honours and Appointments Forfeiture Committee are recommending the removal of the honours (CBE, OBE and MBE) awarded to Rolf Harris in the Birthday Honours List 2006, Silver Jubilee List 1977 and the Birthday Honours List 1968.

In July 2014 at Southwark Crown Court, Rolf Harris received a jail sentence of five years and nine months after a jury unanimously convicted him of 12 indecent assaults spanning almost two decades from 1968. Mr Justice Sweeney said that although Mr Harris had for over 50 years been a popular entertainer and television personality of international standing, with a speciality in children's entertainment, and had done many good and charitable works, he had, however, shown no remorse for his crimes.

Harris sought to appeal against his sentence in August 2014. His initial appeal application was refused in October 2014. In December 2014 Mr Harris abandoned his appeal. The Forfeiture Committee was required to wait until the time period in which he could appeal against his conviction had elapsed before they could look at the case.

Forfeiture is always recommended if an individual receives a prison sentence of three months or more.

You should be aware that the Australian Government has completed the process of terminating Harris's membership of the Order of Australia (it's a simpler process as it doesn't have to go through the Queen) and it is expected that they will announce they have stripped Rolf Harris of his Australian Honour on Monday (so roughly 2100 GMT on Sunday). The No10 Press Office is aware and has appropriate lines to take.

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DPA