



**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

31st August, 2018

Dear Miss Benitez,

I have been asked to write and thank you for your letter of 19<sup>th</sup> June to The Queen, from which careful note has been taken of your comments regarding the Coat of Arms belonging to Sir John Hawkins, an English slave trader.

Coats of Arms are a matter for the College of Arms and they have provided me with the following information.

Since the fifteenth century (or perhaps since the 1400s as there is a tendency in America to regard the fifteenth century as the 1500s), the Sovereign in England has delegated the power to grant new arms to the senior Heralds or Kings of Arms. This grant was therefore not made by Queen Elizabeth I but by William Hervey, Clarenceux King of Arms an office which he held from 1557 until his death in 1567. Coats of Arms can be a powerful record of the past and the record can be both good and bad. It has never been a policy to make amends by expunging heraldic records relating to people, attitudes or policies now considered bad.

Yours sincerely,

**Miss Jennie Vine**  
Deputy Correspondence Coordinator

Miss Venita Benitez.