

Honours system has lost its shine

I read that John Griffin, the founder of the Addison Lee taxi firm, is to be awarded a knighthood “for services to industry and charity” (‘Cronyism claims as at least seven Tory donors included in honours list’, 29 December). Griffin felt he deserved “some recognition” as, during his stewardship of the firm “no driver was found guilty of any serious offence”.



If this is now recognised as a qualification for awards, I also feel that I deserve some recognition as, in about 25 years of owning chainsaws, I have never been involved in either a massacre nor the felling of a significant sycamore. To whom should I apply?

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Justin Welby is rewarded with a knighthood for his work on the coronation of King Charles III. Conducting coronations is in the job description of archbishops of Canterbury. It is a task they are likely to be required to undertake once, in careers lasting many years.

Dressing, feeding and toileting residents with dementia and double incontinence are in the job descriptions of the care staff in residential homes. Those are tasks they are required to undertake every day. They are rewarded with low pay and, now, restrictions on their ability to bring family members to this country to join them while they continue serving some of our most deprived fellow citizens. *O tempora! O mores!*

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