

UK govt. told to hand over Charles' letters

Press TV

19/9/12



Judges in a freedom of information tribunal have ordered the British government to disclose Prince Charles' confidential letters to ministers.

Despite *The Guardian's* request for releasing the prince's letters, the government has been resisting the disclosure for almost seven years.

Several government departments had previously refused to reveal the letters, arguing that it might be threatening to a constitutional convention, under which the prince and ministers' correspondence should be kept secret.

On Tuesday September 18, a total of seven government departments were ordered to hand over the letters written by Charles between 2004 and 2005, at a time when Tony Blair served as the country's Prime Minister.

"The essential reason is that it will generally be in the overall public interest for there to be transparency as to how and when Prince Charles seeks to influence government," three judges ruled on a freedom of information tribunal.

According to Britain's constitutional monarchy, the prince has no political power. However, he should be informed of the government's activities to be prepared to become a king.

Nevertheless, Charles' interventions in political and social issues raised concerns among campaigners as they believe the prince is using his position to influence public policy.