

## **Lives Remembered**

### **More on Godfrey Carter CBE deceased**

I would be grateful if you would allow me to add briefly to my note about Godfrey Carter (August 19) on a point of supreme importance raised by Sir Michael Partridge in his note published on the same day-

‘Above all, [Carter] had high standards of propriety, and he refused to draft wide regulation-making powers for ministers or officials who had not thought through their policy . . . He limited powers strictly to their precise purpose and was scathing . . . on the abuses in more recent legislation’.

In my copious writings on the subject I refer to legislative drafters as the keepers of the statute book. Carter rightly held that in their drafting work they must accept and act on the responsibility of ensuring that the statute book is kept in the best possible condition juridically as well as verbally. This has always been a difficult task, and has been made much harder by European incursions in recent years. It involves standing up to ministers and civil servants, rather than taking the easy way out of meekly performing as instructed. I salute Godfrey Carter for so stoutly upholding this important constitutional principle.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *The Times Register* (Lives Remembered), 9 September 2003 (published in condensed form).