Jones, E. T. The suit to obtain the position of customer inwards at Bristol for John Dowle, May 1593.

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Evan T. Jones (ed.), ‘The suit to obtain the position of customer inwards at Bristol for John Dowle, May 1593’ (University of Bristol, ROSE, 2011)

Letter: Mayor of Bristol et al. to Cecil Burghley, Lord Treasurer, 3 May 1593

To the right honorable our very good Lorde, the lorde highe Treasurer of Engelande

[Docketed] 3 May 1593

Maior of Bristoll
Mr Kytchin
Mr Browne Aldermen 4

Recommend Dowle to be a fitt man for the executing of the Customers place Inwardes uppon the resignacion of Hulbert /

Oure humble dutyes unto your honor remembered, Where William Hulberte Gent, one of the Customers of this Porte ys mynded (as we are informed) to resigne his offyce unto John Dowle this berer; yf yt may stande with your Lordships pleasure, we doe presume upon his iuste 5 deserete to comende him unto your honorable favor as a man fytt for the servyce of her majestye in that place. And thus desiring of the Allmightye the contynuance of your good Lordships healthe withe increase of honour, we doe humbly take oure leave / Bristoll the 3 of May 1593

Your honours moste humble at commandement [signed]
Thomas Aldworth Mayor 6
John Browne Aldermayn 7
Robart Kitchen Alderman 8

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1 The following conventions were employed when transcribing these documents: the line spacing, spelling, capitalization, punctuation and underlining follow the manuscript; reconstructions of suspensions are in italics, editorial comments are in squared brackets. I would like to thank Margaret Condon (University of Bristol) for her advice on the transcription and James Ross (TNA) for supplying photographs of the documents.

2 The National Archives: Public Record Office [TNA:PRO], SP12/245/9(i), fo. 18.

3 The address and docket of both letters are on the verso. The docket would have been added by one of Cecil’s secretaries.

4 Bristol had twelve aldermen, who formed the inner cabinet of the city’s council.

5 iuste: just.

6 Thomas Aldworth (d. 1599) was a significant Bristol merchant, who had been a member of the Merchant Venturers in the 1560s: P. V. McGrath, The Merchant Venturers of Bristol (Bristol, 1975), pp. 18 n.23, 21. He had served as mayor in 1582/3: L. Toumlin Smith (ed.), The Maire of Bristowe is Kalendar by Robert Ricart (Camden Society, V, 1872) [hereafter Ricart’s Kalendar], p. 61.

7 John Browne, (d. 1595), was another Bristol merchant who had also been a Merchant Venturer of the city in the 1560s: McGrath, Merchant Venturers, pp. 18 n.23, 21. He was mayor in 1572/3: Ricart’s Kalendar, p. 58.
Letter: William Hubberte to Cecil Burghley, Lord Treasurer, 16 May 1593

To the Right honourable
The Lord high Treasourer
of England /

[Docketed] 16 May 1593

William Hulbert Customer of your
Port of Bristoll inwaredes

He is desyrous in respect of his
infirmity to resigne his place
to one John Dowle his Kinsman
who is certified by the maior and
others of Bristoll to be sufficient
to discharge the same
wherein he prayes your lordshippes favour.

Right honourable, whereas about tenne yeares past by your lordships favour I enjoyed the Customers place inwaredes in her Majesties port of ~ Bristoll, & yeat contynewe the same: And nowe (by some infirmytie) fynding my self unhable to performe that service as therein is requisite, Ame willing with your honourable favour to resigne the same to John Dowle gent, my nere kynsman, a man of honest reputacion & credit & fytte for the place, as by testymony of letres unto your honour from the mayor & some of the Aldermen of the same Citie may appeare / And ~ for your good Lordships favour herein I am willing to yealde (wheare your honour shall please to dispose) £50, and will dailye pray (as my bounden dutye is) for your Lordships good healthe with increase of honour longe to continue /

Your honours most humble
at commaundemente

Wylliam Hubberte

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8 Robert Kitchen (d. 1594), was a merchant and former mayor (1588) of Bristol: Ricart’s Kalendar, p. 63; J. Vanes (ed.), Documents Illustrating the Overseas Trade of Bristol (Bristol Record Society Publications, XXI 1979), pp. 140, 145, 147, 148.
9 TNA:PRO, SP12/245/9, fo. 17. The underlining on this letter was presumably added by the Lord Treasurer or one of his secretaries.
10 The ‘customer inwards’ was responsible for collecting / recording duties on all inbound overseas trade.
11 ‘maior’: mayor.
12 The Lord Treasurer was responsible, on behalf of the Crown, for the appointment of senior customs officers, who received their posts under letters patent.
13 ‘C Aungelles’: 100 angels. An angel was a coin worth 10s. Hubberte was thus offering Burghley £50 to confirm the appointment of Dowle.