



*Originally Adopted by Council on 12 March 2002
Re-adopted by Council as amended on 25 November 2002*

STRIKING OF THE DATE LETTER

At a meeting of the Council on 20 November 2001 , it was evident that the position taken by the Offices concerning which Date Letter could be struck at a particular time was varied and uncertain.

This was particularly so in four instances:

1. Where the Date Letter was to be struck alongside a Commemorative Mark.
2. Where items were presented for marking to replace damaged parts on which the previous year's Date Letter was marked or to complete a set in relation to which one or some elements was or were marked with the previous year's Date Letter.
3. Where a Date Letter was requested to be added to an item already marked.
4. Where Date Letters were requested to be obliterated and substituted by a new Date Letter on old stock.

The Secretary advises that in his opinion the letter to be struck must be that appropriate to the current year. He feels, however, that it is possible for the Council to make a direction clarifying the approach to be taken in the circumstances mentioned.

This paper therefore sets out a direction based on the principle that the Date Letter struck should always be that of the current year unless a specific Council direction allows otherwise.

Council directs, in relation to the cases referred to above, as follows:

Instance 1

Council will consider each proposal for a Commemorative Mark on its merits and determine by Resolution the periods over which specific Letters may be struck. In the absence of such a Resolution, the Date Letter current at the time of marking should be used.

Instance 2

Items which fall into the category identified in Instance 2 may be marked with the previous year's Date Letter if presented before the end of January in the following year.



Instance 3 and Instance 4

Items which fall into the categories identified in Instances 3 and 4 must be treated as new cases, ie obliteration of existing marks and assay and marking anew by the Assay Offices in accordance with the 1973 Hallmarking Act.

Further, at a meeting of Council on 25 November 2002 a request was made that Council should also make a direction concerning the ability of the Assay Offices to apply a date letter to either sales samples (Instance 5) or volume production (Instance 6) in the year prior to the year to which the date letter relates, and at that meeting Council gave a direction as follows:

Instance 5

Assay Offices may mark sales samples with the date letter applicable to the subsequent year and release those to the customer so long as the customer has agreed with the Assay Office firstly that none of such samples may be sold by the customer before 1st January of the subsequent year and secondly that at any time before then the customer will return the samples to the Assay Office on demand by the Assay Office.

Instance 6

Assay Offices may mark volume production with the date letter applicable to the subsequent year but may not release or part with possession of any items so marked before 1st January of the subsequent year.

**D J Gwyther
Secretary**