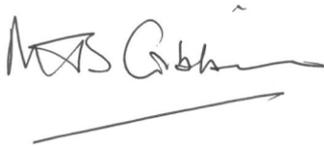


The United kingdom Assay Offices (UKAO)
**Department for Business, Energy and Industrial
Strategy**
**Non-qualifying regulatory provision assurance
statement: confirmed**

The Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) is content that, on the basis of the summary information provided, none of the measures or activities covered in the summary document should be considered as a qualifying regulatory provision for the purposes of the business impact target. This statement does not provide a detailed view of any specific activity in the regulator's summary document. Nor does it comment on any activities not included in the summary. Some activities might, however, have been the subject of separate assessments of qualifying regulatory provisions.

Comments on the non-qualifying regulatory provision summary

The NQRP summary would benefit from clarifying in the EU and international section that the adopted technical recommendations of the international convention does not represent a change in the regulatory requirement placed on business by the UKAO.



Michael Gibbons CBE, Chairman

Non-qualifying Regulatory Provisions (NQR) Summary Report

Regulator: The United Kingdom Assay Offices – London, Birmingham. Sheffield and Edinburgh Assay Offices

Business Impact Target Reporting Period Covered: 8th May 2015 to 8 June 2017

| Excluded Category* | Summary of measure(s), including any impact data where available** |
|---|---|
| A – EU and International | <p>The Assay Offices provided statistics to BEIS on a regular basis on cases where the EU Mutual Recognition Regulation had been invoked.</p> <p>The Assay Offices conserved and adopted technical recommendations of the International Hallmarking Convention.</p> |
| B – Economic Regulation | Not applicable. |
| C – Price Control | Not applicable. Maximum prices for hallmarking are set by the British Hallmarking Council not the Assay Offices. |
| D - Civil Emergencies | Not applicable. |
| E – Fines and Penalties | The Assay Offices assisted Trading Standards on the enforcement of the Hallmarking Act. |
| F – Pro-Competition | <p>Not applicable. The Assay Offices has not introduced pro-competition measures that increase the net direct burden on business.</p> <p>All Assay Offices provided support to the trade, e.g. competitions, student offers, fairs etc., to encourage growth and interest in the jewellery and silverware trade and hallmarking.</p> |
| G – Large Infrastructure projects | Not applicable. |
| H – Misuse of Drugs/National Minimum Wage | Not applicable |
| I – Systemic Financial Risk | Not applicable. |
| K – Industry Codes | <p>Not applicable. There have been no changes to the industry codes initiated by the Assay Offices.</p> <p>The Assay Offices have maintained their ISO 17025 accreditation for their laboratories and ISO 9001 certification for their general operations.</p> <p>All Assay Offices took the view that they should assist Trading Standards on the enforcement of the Hallmarking Act and much work would have been carried out free of charge.</p> |

| Excluded Category* | Summary of measure(s), including any impact data where available** |
|--|--|
| | <p>In addition, the Assay Offices work with organisations like the Fairtrade organisation to assist them in their ambition relating to ethical sourcing of materials.</p> |
| L1 – Casework | <p>In the calendar year 2016, the Assay Offices between them hallmarked 9,751,898 articles between them, a drop of 7% on the previous year. The reasons for the downturn include an increase in precious metal prices (precious metals are priced in dollars and the pound had fallen against the dollar) and the consequences of the Brexit vote which had increased undertenancies for both manufactures and consumers.</p> |
| L2 – Education, communications and promotion | <p>A set of guidance notes for hallmarking was produced by the Assay Offices was published on the website of the individual offices and on the British Hallmarking Council website.</p> <p>The Assay Offices funded the Touchstone Award. This is an award given each year for the best effort by a Trading Standards authority in support of hallmarking activity.</p> <p>None of the material produced created a new regulatory standard that businesses will be expected to follow.</p> |
| L3 – Activity related to policy development | <p>The Assay Offices formed the Technical Committee of the British Hallmarking Council and prepared suggestions for the latter in relation to changes of the Hallmarking Act and other related matters.</p> |
| L4 – Changes to management of regulator | <p>The Assay Master of the Birmingham Assay Office changed during the reporting period. There were no other changes to the heads of the other offices.</p> <p>Sub-offices in the UK and abroad were opened by selective Assay Offices.</p> |