



Consultation on hallmarking by UK Assay Offices at overseas sub-offices

British Hallmarking Council response

The British Hallmarking Council's consultation on overseas hallmarking ran from 14 July to 22 September 2017. Over 120 responses were received, including nine from our 15 official consultees.

The Council worked with an independent consultant, John Bridgeman CBE, a former Director General of Fair Trading, to distil and analyse the responses and these were reported to a special meeting of the Council in January 2018.

Mr Bridgeman's conclusion was that there was no overwhelming evidence on either side of the question of whether hallmarks struck overseas should be distinguished from those struck in the UK. However, he felt that there had been a sufficient expression of views for the BHC to make a decision.

Following discussion at both the January meeting and a further meeting in March 2018 the Council decided in principle that hallmarks struck overseas by UK Assay Offices should be distinguished by way of a special mark. Discussions are now taking place with Assay Offices as to what form that mark should take and once agreed it will be implemented within one year.