



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

ASSAY OFFICES: BUSINESS IMPACT TARGET

Non-qualifying Regulatory Provisions
(NQRP) summary reporting template

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

Business Impact Target Reporting Period Covered: 21st June 2018 – 20th June 2019

Excluded Category*	Summary of measure(s), including any impact data where available**
Measures certified as being below <i>de minimis</i> (measures with an EANDCB below +/- £5 million)	Not applicable. There were no measures carried out by the Assay Offices with an impact of more than £5million.
EU Regulations, Decisions and Directives and other international obligations, including the implementation of the EU Withdrawal Bill and EU Withdrawal Agreement	The Houtwipper EU Courts of Justice judgement concerns and impacts mutual regulation, and thus trade, of hallmarked items between EU states. The future of this judgement if the UK withdraws from the EU could have a significant impact on UK hallmarking in general and the financial performance of the Assay Offices.
Measures certified as concerning EU Withdrawal Bill operability measures	As above.
Pro-competition	The Assay Offices are in competition with one another and have independent pricing policies and service offerings. Maximum prices for hallmarking are set by the British Hallmarking Council not the Assay Offices.
Systemic Financial Risk	Not applicable.
Civil Emergencies	Not applicable.
Fines and Penalties	Not applicable.
Misuse of Drugs	Not applicable.
Measures certified as relating to the safety of tenants, residents and occupants in response to the Grenfell tragedy	All Assay Office take health and safety matters, and the welfare of their staff, very seriously and their policies, premises and practises are reviewed regularly.
Casework	In the calendar year 2018, the Assay Offices between them hallmarked 9,113,477 articles, a drop of 2.5% on the previous year and the worst year for a generation. The general lack of demand is down to prevailing economic conditions, uncertainties over Brexit and the relatively high gold price. However, a major unknown, and concern, is the impact of articles which are sold online by those who do not follow hallmarking law.

Excluded Category*	Summary of measure(s), including any impact data where available**
Education, communications and promotion	<p>The set of guidance notes for hallmarking published by the Assay Offices was continually reviewed and updated when required. It is published on the websites of the individual offices and on the British Hallmarking Council website.</p> <p>The Assay Offices gave a number of talks for the trade and Trading Standards to inform them on matters associated with hallmarking.</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>
Activity related to policy development	<p>The Assay Offices formed the Technical Committee of the British Hallmarking Council. The key area considered this year included assisting the BHC in finding a way forward with respect to understanding X-ray fluorescence methodologies at each office and looking for a common approach.</p> <p>The Assay Offices paid for research on the current market arrangements for hallmarking with the particular goal of understanding the impact of online retailing.</p>
Changes to management of regulator	There were no changes to senior management of the Assay Offices.

* For detailed guidance on the exclusion categories, please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-regulation-framework>

** Complete the summary box as 'Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion.' where this is appropriate.