



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

# ASSAY OFFICES: BUSINESS IMPACT TARGET

Non-qualifying Regulatory Provisions  
(NQRPs)

**Regulator:** Assay Offices

**Business Impact Target Reporting Period Covered:** 9 June 2017 to 20 June 2018

<b>Excluded Category*</b>	<b>Summary of measure(s), including any impact data where available**</b>
<p>Measures certified as being below de minimis (measures with an EANDCB below +/- £5 million)</p>	<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> <p>The Assay Offices assisted Trading Standards on the enforcement of the Hallmarking Act.</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> <p>The Assay Offices have maintained their ISO 17025 accreditation for their laboratories and ISO 9001 certification for their general operations. Upgrading to the latest version of these standards took place.</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> <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> <p>In the calendar year 2017, the Assay Offices between them hallmarked 9,335,729 articles, a drop of 4.3% on the previous year. The reasons for the downturn include a reduction in disposable income as a result of higher inflation – goods made of precious metals are particularly sensitive to this. Uncertainties still exist for both manufactures and consumers with respect to the trading landscape that will exist following the Brexit negotiations.</p> <p>The set of guidance notes for hallmarking published by the Assay Offices is 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 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> <p>The Assay Offices formed the Technical Committee of the British Hallmarking Council. The key areas considered this year included assisting the BHC in finding a way forward with respect to the marks to be used in offshore offices and exploring approaches that could be taken to test the appropriateness of the Hallmarking Act for online retailing.</p> <p>There were no other changes to the heads of the other offices.</p> <p>There had been no applications for additional sub-offices but there had been an application to relocate an existing sub-office within a different area in the premises of the host company.</p>

<b>Excluded Category*</b>	<b>Summary of measure(s), including any impact data where available**</b>
All other excluded categories	Following consideration of the other exclusion categories there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusions

\* For full, legal definitions of these exclusion categories, please see:  
[www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-06-20/HCWS776/](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-06-20/HCWS776/)

\*\* 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.