Dated 28 April 2006

TRIAL OF THE PYX 2006

in accordance with

the Coinage Act 1971,
the Trial of the Pyx Order 1998 and
the Trial of the Pyx (Amendment)
Order 2005

VERDICT

of the Jury

TRIAL OF THE PYX 2006 – UNITED KINGDOM COINAGE

VERDICT OF THE JURY

1. Declaration

(a) We, the members of the Jury, were duly sworn on 7 February 2006 before the Queen's Remembrancer at Goldsmiths' Hall in the City of London to assay gold, platinum, silver Maundy, silver, gold-plated silver, cupro-nickel, nickel-brass and bimetallic coins of Her Majesty, which were produced to us by officers of the Royal Mint. Accounts of the Deputy Master of the Royal Mint were produced to us and showed that the coins were made by the Royal Mint in accordance with the Coinage Act 1971 and various Proclamations and were ready for issue between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2005.

(b) We ascertained the number of coins in each packet produced to us and we confirmed that it corresponded with the number which the officers of the Royal Mint represented the packet to contain.

(c) In this verdict any reference to a permitted variation from the standard weight, fineness, composition or diameter is to such variation from the standard weight, fineness, composition or diameter as is permitted under the Act and the Proclamations.

2. Gold coins

(a) We took out one coin from each of the single packets of gold coins.

(b) We weighed in bulk the coins taken out and found that they were within the permitted variation from the standard weight, the variation being one hundred and seventeen milligrams above (+117) the standard weight.

(c) Next we melted the weighed Britannia coins into an ingot and assayed it, comparing it with the standard trial plate of gold, and found that the metal of the ingot was within the permitted variation from the standard fineness, the variation being point one of a part per thousand above (+0.1) the standard fineness.

(d) Then we melted the other weighed coins into an ingot and assayed it, comparing it with the standard trial plate of gold, and found that there was point two of a part per thousand variation above (+0.2) the standard fineness in the metal of the ingot.

(e) We weighed in bulk the residue of the coins remaining in the packets of gold coins and found that they were within the permitted variation from the standard weight, the variation being two hundred and fifty six milligrams above (+256) the standard weight.

(f) We then took out of the residue three coins of each type and weighed and assayed them separately.

(i) We found that each of the coins weighed separately was within the permitted variation from the standard weight, the least to the greatest of the variations being, in milligrams, as follows:

for the coins of one hundred pounds Britannia:	three below (-3), twenty below (-20) and thirty nine below (-39) standard weight;
for the coins of fifty pounds Britannia:	twenty above (+20), eighty three above (+83) and eighty nine above (+89) standard weight;
for the coins of twenty-five pounds Britannia:	three below (-3), six above (+6) and seven above (+7) standard weight;
for the coins of ten pounds Britannia:	one above (+1) standard weight;
for the coins of five pounds:	five below (-5), eleven below (-11) and sixteen above (+16) standard weight;
for the coins of two pounds:	one below (-1) and nine below (-9) standard weight;
for the sovereigns:	three above (+3), three below (-3) and four below (-4) standard weight;
for the half sovereigns:	one below (-1) and three above (+3) standard weight;
for the coins of one pound:	three below (-3), six below (-6) and twenty four below (-24) standard weight;
for the coins of fifty pence:	three below (-3) and ten above (+10) standard weight.

(ii) Finally, we found that each of the coins assayed separately was within the permitted variation from the standard fineness, the least to the greatest of the variations being, in parts per thousand, as follows:

for the coins of one hundred pounds Britannia:	point two below (-0.2), point four above (+0.4) and point five above (+0.5) standard fineness;

for the coins of fifty pounds Britannia:	point four below (-0.4) and point six above (+0.6) standard fineness;
for the coins of twenty-five pounds Britannia:	point five above (+0.5), point six above (+0.6) and point seven above (+0.7) standard fineness;
for the coins of ten pounds Britannia:	point two above (+0.2) standard fineness;
for the coins of five pounds:	point one above (+0.1), point two above (+0.2) and point three above (+0.3) standard fineness;
for the coins of two pounds:	point three above (+0.3), point three below (-0.3) and point five below (-0.5) standard fineness;
for the sovereigns:	point two above (+0.2) and point four below (-0.4) standard fineness;
for the half-sovereigns:	point three above (+0.3), point four below (-0.4) and point five below (-0.5) standard fineness;
for the coins of one pound:	point four below (-0.4), point six above (+0.6) and one point one above (+1.1) standard fineness;
for the coins of fifty pence:	point two below (-0.2) and point seven below (-0.7) standard fineness.

3. Platinum coins

(a) We took out all of the coins from the packets of platinum coins and weighed them in bulk and found that they were on the whole within the permitted variation from the standard weight, the variation being three hundred and forty milligrams above (+340) the standard weight.

(b) We then assayed all the platinum coins, comparing them with the standard trial plate of platinum, and found that the metal of the coins was on the whole within

the permitted variation from the standard fineness, the variation being two point six parts per thousand above (+2.6) the standard fineness.

4. Silver Maundy coins

(a) We took out all the coins from the packets of silver Maundy coins and weighed them in bulk and found that they were on the whole within the permitted variation from the standard weight, the variation being twenty seven milligrams above (+27) the standard weight.

(b) We then assayed all the silver Maundy coins, comparing them with the standard trial plate of silver, and found that the metal of the coins was on the whole within the permitted variation from the standard fineness, the variation being one point nine parts per thousand above (+1.9) the standard fineness.

5. Silver coins other than Maundy coins

(a) We ascertained that the coins in the packet of five pound Pied Forte coins weighed more than one kilogram and that the coins in the packets of the other denominations weighed not more than one kilogram.

(b) We ascertained that the coins in all the packets, other than the five pound Pied Forte packet, weighed more than five hundred grams.

(c) We took out all the coins of each denomination and weighed them in bulk and found that they were on the whole within the permitted variation from the standard weight, the variations being, in grams, as follows:

for the coins of two pounds Britannia:	point two four below (-0.24) standard weight;
for the coins of one pound Britannia:	point one eight below (-0.18) standard weight;
for the coins of fifty pence Britannia:	point zero five above (+0.05) standard weight; and
for the coins of twenty pence Britannia:	point zero one above (+0.01) standard weight.
for the coins of five pounds Pied Forte:	point four above (+0.4) standard weight;
for the coins of five pounds:	point nine eight above (+0.98) standard weight;
for the coins of one pound Pied Forte:	point two six above (+0.26) standard weight;

for the coins of one pound:	point zero six below (-0.06) standard weight;
for the coins of fifty pence Pied Forte:	point zero nine above (+0.09) standard weight;
for the coins of fifty pence:	point zero five above (+0.05) standard weight;

(d) We assayed all the Britannia coins, comparing them with the standard trial plate of silver, and found that the metal of the coins was on the whole within the permitted variation from the standard fineness, the variation being one point six parts per thousand above (+1.6) the standard fineness;

(e) Finally, we assayed all the coins, other than the Britannia coins, comparing them with the standard trial plate of silver, and found that the metal of the coins was on the whole within the permitted variation from the standard fineness, the variation being two point three parts per thousand above (+2.3) the standard fineness.

6. Gold-plated silver coins

(a) We ascertained that the coins of each denomination in the packets of gold-plated silver coins weighed not more than one kilogram.

(b) We also ascertained that all the coins contained in the packets weighed more than five hundred grams.

(c) We took out all the coins and weighed them in bulk and found that they were on the whole within the permitted variation from the standard weight, the variations being, in grams, as follows:

for the coins of two pounds Pied Forte:	point two five above (+0.25) standard weight.
for the coins of two pounds:	point two eight below (-0.28) standard weight; and

(d) Then, we assayed all the coins, comparing the metal of the coins other than the gold-plating with the standard trial plate of silver, and found that such metal was on the whole within the permitted variation from the standard fineness, the variation being for the inner section two point five parts per thousand parts above (+2.5) and for the outer section two point one parts per thousand above (+2.1) the standard fineness.

(e) Finally, in assaying all the coins, we weighed the gold-plating of the outer section of the coins and found that the gold-plating was on the whole within the permitted variation from the standard weight, the variation being, in milligrams, as follows:

for the coins of two pounds:	thirty one point five below (-31.5) standard weight; and
for the coins of two pounds Pied Forte:	seventeen point eight below (-17.8) standard weight.

7. Cupro-nickel coins

(a) We ascertained that the coins of each denomination in the packets of cupro-nickel coins weighed more than one kilogram.

(b) We took from each packet a sufficient number coins and grouped them into lots, each lot comprising coins of the same denomination and weighing not less than nine hundred and eighty grams or more than one kilogram.

(c) We then weighed each lot in bulk and found that it was on the whole within the permitted variation from the standard weight, the least to the greatest of the variations being, in grams, as follows:

for the lot of coins of five pounds:	point three one below (-0.31) standard weight; and
for the two lots of coins of fifty pence:	one point two above (+1.2) and one point four eight above (+1.48) standard weight;
for the two lots of coins of twenty pence:	one point three nine above (+1.39) and two point eight two above (+2.82) standard weight;
for the lot of coins of ten pence:	point three four below (-0.34) standard weight; and
for the lot of coins of five pence:	point six above (+0.6) standard weight.

(d) We weighed in bulk the residue of the coins remaining in the packets of cupro-nickel coins and found that they were on the whole within the permitted variation from the standard weight, the variation being two hundred and nine point nine grams above (+209.9) the standard weight.

(e) We then assayed the coins, not weighing less in all than five hundred grams, comparing them with the standard trial plates of copper and nickel, and found that the metal of the coins was on the whole within the permitted variation from the standard composition, the variations being as follows:

for the coins of twenty pence:	minus point one four per cent (-0.14) of copper and plus point one four per cent (+0.14) of nickel;

and

for the coins of five pounds fifty pence ten pence and five pence:	plus point zero nine per cent (+0.09) of copper and minus point zero eight per cent (-0.08) of nickel.

(f) Lastly, we measured the diameters of twenty of the coins of each denomination and found that the average diameter of the coins of each denomination was within the permitted variation from the standard diameter, the variations being, in millimetres, as follows:

for the coins of five pounds:	point zero two (-0.02) less than the standard diameter;
for the coins of fifty pence:	point zero three (-0.03) less than the standard diameter;
for the coins of twenty pence:	point zero nine (-0.09) less than the standard diameter;
for the coins of ten pence:	point zero three (-0.03) less than the standard diameter; and
for the coins of five pence:	point zero six (-0.06) less than the standard diameter.

8. Nickel-brass coins

(a) We ascertained that the coins of one pound contained in the packets of nickel-brass coins weighed more than one kilogram.

(b) We took from each packet a sufficient number of coins and grouped them into three lots, each lot weighing not more/less than nine hundred and eighty grams or more than one kilogram. We weighed each lot in bulk and found that it was on the whole within the permitted variation from the standard weight, the least to the greatest of the variations being, in grams, as follows:

point five two below (-0.52), one point five one below (-1.51) and one point six one below (-1.61) the standard weight.

(c) We weighed in bulk the residue of the coins remaining in the packets of nickel-brass coins and found that they were on the whole within the permitted variation from the standard weight, the variation being eighty point seven grams below (-80.7) the standard weight.

(d) We then assayed the coins, not weighing less in all than five hundred grams, comparing them with the standard trial plates of copper, nickel and zinc, and found that the metal of the coins was on the whole within the permitted variation from standard composition, the variations being plus point zero two of a per

cent (+0.02) of copper, minus point zero three of a per cent (-0.03) of nickel and plus point zero one of a per cent (+0.01) of zinc.

(e) Finally, we measured the diameters of twenty of the coins and found that the average diameter of those coins was within the permitted variation from the standard diameter, the variation being point zero five millimetres below (-0.05) the standard diameter.

9. Bimetallic coins

(a) We ascertained that the coins of two pounds contained in the packets of bimetallic coins weighed more than one kilogram.

(b) We took from each packet sufficient coins and grouped them into two lots, each lot weighing not less than nine hundred and eighty grams or more than one kilogram, and weighed each lot in bulk an found that it was on the whole within the permitted variation from the standard weight, the least to the greatest of the variations being, in grams, as follows:

point six one below (-0.61) and two point five five below (-2.55) the standard weight.

(c) We weighed in bulk the residue of the coins remaining in the packets and found that they were on the whole within the permitted variation from the standard weight, the variation being one hundred and seventeen point three grams below (-117.3) the standard weight.

(d) We then assayed the coins, not weighing less in all than five hundred grams, by:

(i) comparing the cupro-nickel inner sections of the coins with the standard trial plates of copper and nickel, and found that that metal of the coins was on the whole within the permitted variation from the standard composition, the variations being minus point zero six of a per cent (-0.06) of copper and plus point zero six of a per cent (+0.06) of nickel; and

(ii) comparing the nickel-brass outer sections of the coins with the standard trial plates of copper, nickel and zinc, and found that that metal of the coins was on the whole within the permitted variation from the standard composition, the variations being plus point three of a per cent (+0.3) of copper, minus point zero one of a per cent (-0.01) of nickel and minus point zero five of a per cent (-0.05) of zinc.

(e) Finally, we measured the diameters of twenty of the coins and found that the average diameter of those coins was within the permitted variation from the standard diameter.

We found that all the coins submitted to the Trial were, on the whole, within the permitted variations.

The following, being members of the Jury, have duly signed this Verdict this 28 April 2006.

1. ……
Mr M Dru Drury, CBE

2. ……
Sir Jerry Wiggin

3. ……
Mr G G Macdonald

4. ……
Miss S J Jones

5. ……
Mr A F Spink

6. ……
Mr C W Gabriel

7. ……
Mr J R Polk

8. ……
Mrs A M Rowe-Parr

9. ……
Mr A R Cornelius

10. ……
Miss J A Lowe
Foreman of the Jury

11. ……
Mr D J Callaghan

12. ……
Professor K J Gregory

13. ……
Mr D J Deakin

14. ……
Mr D Barrie

15. ……
Miss R J Savill CBE

16. ……
Mr D W Evans

17. ……
Mr J A Stevenson

18. ……
Mr A N Wise LVO MBE