



CROWN OFFICE, NORTHERN IRELAND
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE
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27 January 2000

Dear Ms O'Boyle

Royal Assent - affixing the Great Seal of Northern Ireland

I refer to your letter of 25 January and to our telephone conversation earlier today.

I have, currently, two official seals for use in connection with the business of the Crown Office.

The first, and more important, is the Great Seal of Northern Ireland. As the Guidance paper (and your letter) records, there is no longer the technology available in Belfast to make/take impressions of this Seal and it travels to London (Crown Office, House of Lords) when usage or statute dictates that an official document has to be sealed with it. The Seal consists of two heavy silver discs, on one side showing the Queen on horseback, on the other a coat of arms surmounted by a Crown.

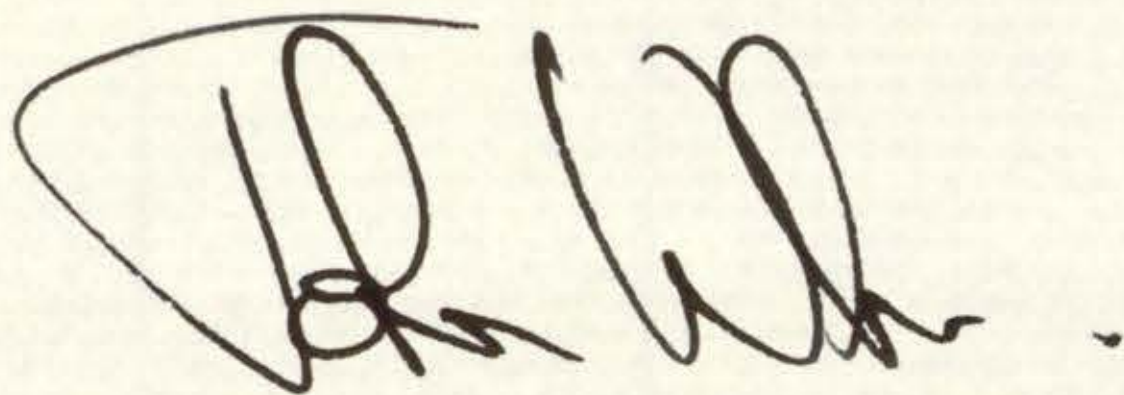
The other Seal held in my office is a hand operated Wafer Seal - but, as the enclosed impression made by it clearly demonstrates, it is not a Wafer Great Seal.

The Crown Office in the House of Lords confirms that a Wafer Great Seal consists of a scaled down image of The Queen as she appears on one side of the Great Seal i.e. of Her Majesty on horseback.

It is some time since the Crown Office in London has had to order the manufacture of a new Seal, but the officials there should be in a position to indicate how and where the work was

done. Their immediate impression is that a new Seal could not be manufactured overnight. I thought I should bring these matters to your attention as quickly as possible - hence my telephone call earlier today.

Yours sincerely



J W WILSON

Clerk of the Crown for Northern Ireland

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