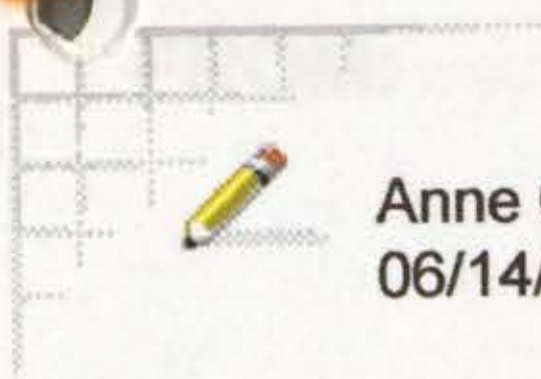




Anne O'Boyle
06/14/2000 10:55 AM

To: Linda Devlin/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP
cc: Ivan Millen/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Trevor Rea/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP, Joan Hetherington/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP

Subject: Wafer Great Seal

Linda

Attached is a draft submission and determination needed in relation to the use of the Wafer Great Seal.

I cleared the determination with Dennis McCartney in January but, given that we are now ready to go with it to the FM/DFM, it would seem prudent to let him see it again. Also, George Gray might need to see it and I have to clear the detail of the specification again with NIO - just to be sure it meets the specification of the wafer seal they have on order.

However, before I circulate these drafts for comment are you reasonably content with the submission?



Wafer Great Seal - deter

Anne

Recommendation: That the First Minister and Deputy First Minister make a general direction under section 49(2) and (3)(b) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 authorizing the use of a Wafer Great Seal of Northern Ireland.

DETAIL

1. A Bill receives Royal Assent on the day on which "Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Northern Ireland signed with Her Majesty's own hand signifying Her Assent are notified to the Presiding Officer".
2. Affixing the Great Seal is a function of the Crown Office for Northern Ireland where the Clerk of the Crown (Master Wilson) has formal custody of the Northern Ireland Great Seal. However, the means to make / take impressions of the Great Seal is not available in Belfast. Therefore, where usage or statute dictates that an official document has to be sealed with the

**FROM: LINDA DEVLIN
MSCHINERY OF GOVERNMENT DIVISION
OFMDFM**

DATE: JUNE 2000

**PS / First Minister
PS / Deputy First Minister**

cc list below

ROYAL ASSENT - WAFER GREAT SEAL OF NORTHERN IRELAND

SUMMARY

Issue: To authorise the use of a Wafer Great Seal of Northern Ireland.

Timing: Routine.

Recommendation: That the First Minister and Deputy First Minister make a general direction under section 49(2) and (3)(b) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 authorising the use of a Wafer Great Seal of Northern Ireland.

DETAIL

1. A Bill receives Royal Assent on the day on which "Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Northern Ireland signed with Her Majesty's own hand signifying Her Assent are notified to the Presiding Officer".
2. Affixing the Great Seal is a function of the Crown Office for Northern Ireland where the Clerk of the Crown (Master Wilson) has formal custody of the Northern Ireland Great Seal. However, the means to make / take impressions of the Great Seal is not available in Belfast. Therefore, when usage or statute dictates that an official document has to be sealed with the

Great Seal the Clerk of the Crown has to travel with it to London (Crown Office, House of Lords) to make use of the technology and equipment there.

3. Section 49(2) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 gives to the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, acting jointly, power to direct that -

"impressions with the same device as the Great Seal of Northern Ireland shall be taken in such manner, of such size and on such material as is specified in the direction".

Section 49(3)(b) further provides that –

"each such impression shall be kept in accordance with the directions of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister acting jointly.

Such impressions would be known as a Wafer Great Seal of Northern Ireland.

4. This means that it would be possible to affix a Wafer Great Seal to Letters Patent in Belfast if the First Minister and Deputy First Minister make a direction under the section 49 powers. For the practical reasons described in paragraph 2 above the Crown Office wish to have authority to use a Wafer Great Seal of Northern Ireland.
5. The Crown Office and the Northern Ireland Office have been consulted as to the manner, size, material and custody which might be applied to a Wafer Great Seal of Northern Ireland. Their views are incorporated in the recommendation set out in paragraph 6 below which also takes account of similar arrangements in Scotland in relation to the use of a Wafer Scottish Seal.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that the First Minister and Deputy First Minister acting jointly direct that -

- an impression of the Great Seal of Northern Ireland can be taken by embossment using for this purpose a die bearing such a device that, when applied by embossment to paper, parchment, wafer or wax, it leaves an impression with the same device as the Great Seal of Northern Ireland,
 - any die provided for this purpose be kept in the same custody as the Great Seal of Northern Ireland,
 - a Wafer Great Seal of Northern Ireland would be taken on paper, parchment, wafer or wax,
 - the diameter of a Wafer Great Seal of Northern Ireland shall be not more than 75 millimetres and not less than 65 millimetres,
 - a Wafer Great Seal of Northern Ireland would be kept, until it is applied to a document, in the same custody as the Great Seal of Northern Ireland.
7. A direction on these lines is attached for the First Minister and Deputy First Minister's consideration and signature.

Linda Devlin

Machinery of Government Division

☎ 28158

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Mr Larkin

Mr Logue

Ms O'Boyle

The Wafer Great Seal of Northern Ireland

Under the power section 49(2) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 49(2) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, and of all the powers and authorities lawfully vested in me, I hereby direct that impressions with the same device as the Great Seal of Northern Ireland may be taken in accordance with the provisions of the said Act and shall be known as a Wafer Great Seal of Northern Ireland.

Manner in which Seal may be taken

1. (1) A Wafer Great Seal of Northern Ireland shall be taken by embossment using for this purpose a die bearing such a device that, when applied by embossment to paper, parchment, wax or wax, it leaves an impression with the same device as the Great Seal of Northern Ireland.

(2) Any die provided for this purpose shall be kept in the same custody as the Great Seal of Northern Ireland.

Material on which Seal may be taken

2. A Wafer Great Seal of Northern Ireland shall be taken on paper, parchment, wax or wax.

Size of Seal

3. The diameter of a Wafer Great Seal of Northern Ireland shall be not more than 75 millimetres and not less than 50 millimetres.

Custody of Seal

4. A Wafer Great Seal of Northern Ireland shall be kept, until it is applied to a document, in the same custody as the Great Seal of Northern Ireland.

DAVID TRIMBLE
FIRST MINISTER

Date

SEANUS MALLON
DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER

Date

The Wafer Great Seal of Northern Ireland

Direction under section 49(2) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 49(2) and (3)(b) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, and of all the powers enabling us in that behalf, we hereby direct that impressions with the same device as the Great Seal of Northern Ireland may be taken in accordance with this Direction. Each such impression shall be known as a Wafer Great Seal of Northern Ireland.

Manner in which Seal may be taken

1. (1) A Wafer Great Seal of Northern Ireland shall be taken by embossment using for this purpose a die bearing such a device that, when applied by embossment to paper, parchment, wafer or wax, it leaves an impression with the same device as the Great Seal of Northern Ireland.
- (2) Any die provided for this purpose shall be kept in the same custody as the Great Seal of Northern Ireland.

Material on which Seal may be taken

2. A Wafer Great Seal of Northern Ireland shall be taken on paper, parchment, wafer or wax.

Size of Seal

- 3 The diameter of a Wafer Great Seal of Northern Ireland shall be not more than 75 millimetres and not less than 65 millimetres.

Custody of Seal

4. A Wafer Great Seal of Northern Ireland shall be kept, until it is applied to a document, in the same custody as the Great Seal of Northern Ireland.

DAVID TRIMBLE
FIRST MINISTER

Date

SEAMUS MALLON
DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER

Date

FROM: M McGUINNESS
29 MARCH 2000

cc Miss O'Boyle

MR SMYTH
MR McCUSKER

ROYAL ASSENT – PAYMENT FOR A WAFER GREAT SEAL FOR NI

To see Tom Watson's note of 21 March to Anne O'Boyle and earlier papers.

I am content that we are getting a fair deal and value for money in sharing the cost of the Wafer Great Seal with the NIO. Our share would be in the region of £3,000 to £4,000.

Are you content that we now confirm this arrangement with the NIO, to be activated at the point of restoration of the institutions.

Manus McGuinness

M McGUINNESS

From: T Watson
Devolution & Legislation Division
21 March 2000

cc Mr Crawford
Mrs Devlin
Mr Jones

Miss O'Boyle
OFM/DFM

WAFER GREAT SEAL

We spoke last week about the procurement of the above seal.

2. Our Financial Services Division have given approval to place an order for a Wafer Great Seal with the appropriate suppliers. DLD will now take this forward in consultation with the Office of the Clerk of the Crown.

3. Since the intended use of the seal will cover activities related to both the Northern Ireland Office and OFM/DFM, following restoration of the institutions, we considered that the costs incurred in obtaining the device, should, at that point, be shared between the administrations.

4. I trust this is satisfactory. I shall keep you informed of any further significant developments.

Tom Watson

T Watson
Castle Buildings Ext 22944

*Copied to Minna McGuinness
J 23/3/00*

*Agreed
with Minna
McGuinness
24/3/00*