EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Warrant, but is intended to indicate its general purport.)

This Warrant amends the principal Warrant—the Inland Post Warrant, 1947—to give effect to the Budget proposals in so far as they relate to the registration fee payable on the registration of an inland postal packet.

The minimum registration fee is increased from threepence to fourpence (Regulation 2). The scale of maximum amounts available for compensation for loss of or damage to a registered postal packet, as set out in column 2 of the Schedule to this Warrant, is unchanged, but in the scale of registration fees set out in column 1 of the Schedule there is an increase of one penny at each step of the scale (Regulation 3 and Schedule).

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4. MONEY ORDERS

The Postal Order Warrant, 1949

1949 No. 1266

Made - - - -	*4th July*, 1949
Laid before Parliament	*7th July*, 1949
Coming into Operation	*25th July*, 1949

We, the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, in exercise of all powers given to us by Sections 23, 24, 82 and 87 of the Post Office Act 1908(**a**) and Section 1 of the Post Office (Amendment) Act 1935(**b**) and of all other powers enabling us in this behalf, do, by this Warrant, made on the representation of His Majesty's Postmaster General (testified by his signing the same) and under the hands of two of us, the said Commissioners, make the following Regulations (that is to say):—

PART I

Application of Part I.

1. The Regulations in this Part of this Warrant shall apply to postal orders issued or paid in the British Islands.

Issue and payment of postal orders.

2. The Postmaster General may authorise any of his officers or any person holding office under the Crown to issue or pay postal orders and this Warrant shall apply to any officer or person so authorised as though he were a postmaster.

Amounts of postal orders.

3.—(1) Postal orders shall be issued for the following sums:—

(*a*) the sum of sixpence and any multiple of sixpence up to and including eight shillings (except five shillings and sixpence and six shillings and sixpence);

(*b*) the sum of nine shillings and any multiple of one shilling above nine shillings up to and including twenty-one shillings.

(a) 8 Edw. 7. c. 48. (b) 25 & 26 Geo. 5. c. 15.

(2) Postal orders may also be issued for sums in multiples of one penny from sevenpence to twenty-one shillings and elevenpence (both inclusive) at any post office where a machine for issuing postal orders (in this Warrant referred to as " a postal order issuing machine ") is installed.

(3) The value of a postal order (other than an order issued through a postal order issuing machine) may be increased by affixing postage stamps not exceeding two in number and not exceeding a total of 5d. in value (in the case of orders of denominations up to and including 4s. 6d.) or 11d. in value (in the case of orders of denominations in excess of 4s. 6d.). Provided that no payment shall be made by or on behalf of the Postmaster General in respect of:—

(*a*) a stamp not affixed in the space provided for the purpose on the postal order; or

(*b*) a stamp which is not a stamp for the time being authorised or required to be used for the purpose of the Post Office; or

(*c*) a stamp which has been cut out of any postal packet, document, instrument, envelope or other cover, or which is perforated with initials or marks; or

(*d*) an odd halfpenny over and above the value or total value in even pence of the stamp or stamps.

Poundage.

4.—(1) The poundage payable for postal orders of denominations mentioned in this paragraph shall be as follows:—

Amount of Order	*Poundage*
	d.
For an order for 6d. or 1s.	1
For an order for any multiple of 6d. between 1s. 6d. and 5s., both inclusive	1½
For an order for 6s., 7s., 7s. 6d. or 8s.	2
For an order for any multiple of 1s. between 9s. and 21s. both inclusive	2

(2) In the case of orders issued through a postal order issuing machine for sums other than sixpence or multiples of sixpence or for multiples of sixpence other than those specified in paragraph (1) of this regulation, the poundage payable shall be as follows:—

Amount of Order	*Poundage*
	d.
For an order from 7d. to 1s. 5d. inclusive	1
For an order from 1s. 7d. to 5s. 11d. inclusive ...	1½
For an order from 6s. 1d. to 21s. 11d. inclusive ...	2

Prepayment.

5. The amount for which a postal order is to be issued and all poundage payable in respect of the said order shall be prepaid.

Filling in of blanks in a postal order.

6.—(1) The blanks in a postal order for the name of the payee and for the name of the post office at which the order is to be paid may be filled in before or after issue.

(2) If the blanks are not filled in before issue, the person to whom the postal order is issued must, before parting with it, fill in the name of the payee and may fill in the name of the post office at which the order is to be paid. Even where a postal order is crossed with a view to the payment through a banker, the name of the payee must be filled in.

(3) Notwithstanding anything in paragraph (2) of this regulation, if the blank space in a postal order for the name of the payee has not been filled in by the person to whom the postal order was issued, the person presenting the postal order for payment, or in the case of a crossed postal order the customer on whose behalf the banker presents it for payment, shall be deemed to be the payee and in the case of an uncrossed postal order the person so deemed to be the payee shall insert his name in the said blank space before the order is paid.

(4) No alteration can be made in the name of the payee, or of the post office at which the postal order is to be paid, when once filled in, except by the direction of the Postmaster General.

(5) Except when the postal order is paid through a banker, the payee must sign the receipt at the foot of the order.

(6) When a postal order is made payable to a company, corporation or society, the receipt may be given by means of a stamp of the name of the company, corporation or society, to which is appended the signature of an officer of the company, corporation or society together with a description of his office.

(7) Subject to the provisions of Regulation 9 of this Warrant, when a postal order is made payable to a firm it must be receipted in the name of the firm. If the order is payable to a firm not trading under a personal name, the name of the firm must be written or stamped in the space for the receipt, the signature of a partner or servant of the firm, with a description of his office in the firm, being appended thereto.

Payment otherwise than through a banker.

7.—(1) When a postal order is presented for payment otherwise than through a banker, the postmaster shall ascertain that the receipt for the amount of the order is signed and may refuse payment until he is satisfied that it is signed by or under the authority of the person appearing to be the payee.

(2) He may also, if the receipt is not signed in his presence, take reasonable means to satisfy himself that the person presenting the order is either the payee or his agent.

(3) He may also require the person presenting the order to sign his name on the order before payment is made although the receipt has been already signed.

(4) Nevertheless, the signature to the receipt shall in all cases be a sufficient authority to the postmaster for the payment of the amount of the order, if that signature purports to be the signature of the payee; and it shall not be necessary to prove that the receipt was signed by or under the authority of the payee.

Crossing of postal orders.

8.—(1) A postal order may be crossed generally by the addition on its face of the words "and Company", or any abbreviation thereof, between two parallel transverse lines, or of two parallel transverse lines simply, or it may be crossed specially by the addition on its face of the name of a banker, in which case the order shall be deemed to be crossed to that banker.

(2) A postal order which is crossed generally may be crossed specially.

(3) A banker to whom a postal order is crossed may again cross it specially to another banker as his agent for collection.

(4) Where a postal order is crossed generally, it shall not be paid except to a banker.

(5) Where a postal order is crossed specially, it shall not be paid except to the banker to whom it is crossed, or to his agent for collection.

(6) Where a postal order is crossed specially to more than one banker, except when crossed to an agent for the purpose of collection, payment thereof shall be refused.

Payment of crossed postal orders.

9.—(1) If a postal order which is crossed generally is presented for payment by or through any banker, with the name of such banker written or stamped upon the face thereof, that name may be accepted as a sufficient receipt for the amount of the order, and the order may be paid without any other receipt.

(2) If a postal order which is crossed specially is presented for payment by or through the banker to whom it is crossed, with the name of such banker written or stamped upon the face thereof, that name may be accepted as a sufficient receipt for the amount of the order and the order may be paid without any other receipt. Provided that where the order is crossed specially to a second banker as agent for collection, the name of such second banker, written or stamped upon the face of the order, may be accepted as a receipt under this regulation.

(3) An order which is crossed generally or specially, if presented for payment by or through a banker, may be paid at any post office in the British Islands, notwithstanding that the blank has been filled in with the name of some particular post office.

Examination before payment of postal order through banker.

10. A postal order presented by or through a banker for payment shall not (in the absence of an express arrangement between such banker and the Postmaster General to the contrary) be paid until after such order has been examined by such officer as the Postmaster General may from time to time direct.

Payment of a postal order after six months have elapsed.

11. After the expiration of six months from the last day of the month in which any postal order is issued, the order shall be payable on payment, in the manner for the time being directed by the Postmaster General, of a commission equal to the amount of the original poundage.

Mutilated postal orders.

12. If a postal order presented for payment has any erasure or alteration, or is cut, defaced or mutilated, the postmaster may refuse payment.

Postmaster may refuse or delay payment.

13. A postmaster may refuse or delay the payment of a postal order when it appears to him necessary to do so in cases other than those provided for in this Warrant.

Remission of poundage.

14. The Postmaster General may, in any case in which he may consider it just or reasonable so to do, remit any poundage or commission payable under this Warrant.

Payment of postal order discharges the Postmaster General.

15. The payment of the amount of a postal order in accordance with this Warrant to whomsoever made shall discharge the Postmaster General and his officers from all liability whatsoever in respect of that order and payment of the amount thereof notwithstanding any forgery, fraud, mistake, loss, neglect or omission which may have been committed or have occurred in the procuring of the order or obtaining the payment thereof or otherwise in relation thereto.

PART II

Issue and payment of postal orders outside the British Islands.

16. Postal orders may be issued or paid:

(*a*) at any post office maintained by the Postmaster General outside the British Islands;

(*b*) at any post office under the charge of the postal administration of any country outside the British Islands where, with the approval of the Treasury, an arrangement has been or is hereafter made for that purpose with the government or postal administration of that country and is for the time being in force;

(*c*) on board any of His Majesty's ships of war outside the British Islands or the territorial waters adjacent thereto or at any place outside the British Islands where any of His Majesty's Military or Air Forces are stationed, by any person authorised by the Postmaster General to issue and pay postal orders.

Application of regulations in Part I to orders issued or paid abroad.

17. The Regulations contained in Part I of this Warrant shall apply to postal orders issued or paid outside the British Islands in like manner as they apply to postal orders issued or paid in the British Islands, subject nevertheless to the following modifications:—

(*a*) The poundage payable upon a postal order issued at any post office maintained by the Postmaster General outside the British Islands, wherever such order may be payable, shall be one halfpenny more than the poundage which would be payable for a postal order issued for the same sum in the British Islands.

(*b*) In the case of postal orders issued outside the British Islands under and in accordance with paragraph (*b*) of Regulation 16 of this Warrant the poundage payable shall be such as the issuing authority may prescribe.

(*c*) Postal orders issued as mentioned in the last two foregoing paragraphs of this regulation may bear by over-printing such announcements in relation to the poundage charged and in relation to the equivalent in the coinage of the country in which the order is issued to the sterling face value of the postal order as the issuing authority may prescribe.

(*d*) In the case of postal orders issued outside the British Islands the following paragraph shall be substituted for paragraph (3) of Regulation 3 of this Warrant, that is to say:—

"(2) The value of a postal order may be increased by affixing, in the space provided for the purpose, postage stamps not exceeding two in number and not exceeding a total of 5d. in value (in the case of orders of denominations up to and including 4s. 6d.) or 11d. in value (in the case of orders of denominations in excess of 4s. 6d.) or the equivalent in the coinage of the country in which the order is issued. Any such stamp may either be a stamp authorised or required to be used for the purpose of the Post Office or, if the postal administration of the country in which the order is issued so allows, a current stamp for denoting a rate of postage of that country, but no other stamps may be used. If a stamp is affixed in contravention of the provisions of this paragraph no payment shall be made by or on behalf of the Postmaster General in respect of that stamp".

18. For the purpose of this Warrant any port or place at which the government or postal administration of any such country as is referred to in Regulation 16 of this Warrant maintains a post office shall be deemed to be a part of that country. Place where a country maintains a post office be deemed part of the country.

19. The provisions of Part I of this Warrant so far as they relate to the payment of postal orders shall apply to the payment under the authority of the Postmaster General of Irish postal orders. Provided that:— Payment of Irish postal orders.

(*a*) No payment shall be made by or on behalf of the Postmaster General in respect of a stamp affixed to an Irish postal order for the purpose of increasing its value unless:

(i) the stamp is either a stamp authorised or required to be used for the purpose of the Post Office or a stamp issued by the postal administration in the Republic of Ireland and authorised to be used by that administration; and

(ii) the stamp affixed to any such order does not exceed five pence in value or, if more than one stamp is affixed, the stamps do not exceed three in number and five pence in total value;

(*b*) Regulation 11 of this Warrant shall not apply to Irish postal orders and in lieu thereof the period within which such orders may be paid and the conditions on which they may be paid after the expiry of any period shall be such as may be prescribed by the enactments or regulations for the time being in force in the Republic of Ireland relating to such orders.

PART III

Supplemental

20.—(1) In this Warrant, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby expressly assigned to them, that is to say:— Interpretation.

(*a*) "postal order" means a money order issued in pursuance of the Post Office Acts 1908 to 1940 as a British postal order in such special form as may from time to time be prescribed by the Postmaster General.

(*b*) "the payee" means the person entitled to receive the amount of a postal order.

(*c*) "Irish postal orders" means orders similar to British postal orders issued by the postal administration in the Republic of Ireland.

(*d*) "British Islands" means Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1889(**a**) applies to the interpretation of this Warrant as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

21. The Regulations mentioned in the Schedule to this Warrant are hereby revoked. Revocation of certain regulations.

22. This Warrant shall come into operation on the twenty-fifth day of July One thousand nine hundred and forty-nine. Commencement of Warrant.

(**a**) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

Short title. **23.** This Warrant may be cited as the "Postal Order Warrant 1949".

Date. Dated this 4th day of July One thousand nine hundred and forty-nine.

Wm. Hannan,
J. W. Snow,
Two of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury.

Wilfred Paling,
His Majesty's Postmaster General.

THE SCHEDULE

REGULATIONS REVOKED

Short Title	Date
The Postal Order (Inland) Regulations, 1905	1905, October 12(a)
The Postal Order (Inland) Amendment (No. 1) Regulations, 1906	1906, June 22(b)
The Postal Order (Inland) Amendment (No. 5) Regulations, 1935	1935, August 21(c)
The Postal Order (Inland) Amendment (No. 6) Regulations, 1940	1940, April 30(d)
The Postal Order (Foreign and Colonial) Regulations, 1914	1914, July 21(e)
The Postal Order (Foreign and Colonial) Amendment (No. 1) Regulations, 1916	1916, November 22(f)
The Postal Order (Foreign and Colonial) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations, 1917	1917, January 31(g)
The Postal Order (Foreign and Colonial) Amendment (No. 3) Regulations, 1920	1920, October 25(h)
The Postal Order (Foreign and Colonial) Amendment (No. 4) Regulations, 1921	1921, October 10(i)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Warrant, but is intended to indicate its general purport.)

This Warrant consolidates, with amendments, the regulations relating to postal orders specified in the Schedule to the Warrant.

Part I relates to postal orders issued or paid in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man and reproduces (with drafting amendments) most of the provisions in the previous regulations which have not previously been revoked. Regulations 3 (2) and 4 (2), relating to a new series of postal orders to be issued from machines, and Regulations 6 (3), 6 (7) and 14, are new. Poundage rates (Regulation 4) are unchanged.

Part II relates to British postal orders issued or paid abroad, a subject which has previously been dealt with by separate Warrants. Part II also provides for the payment of postal orders issued by the Postal Administration in the Republic of Ireland (formerly Eire).

(a) S.R. & O. 1905 (No. 1089) p. 381.
(b) S.R. & O. 1906 (No. 470) p. 557.
(c) S.R. & O. 1935 (No. 884) p. 1435.
(d) S.R. & O. 1940 (No. 673) I, p. 838.
(e) S.R. & O. 1914 (No. 1078) III, p. 79.
(f) S.R. & O. 1916 (No. 810) III, p. 60.
(g) S.R. & O. 1917 (No. 134) p. 924.
(h) S.R. & O. 1920 (No. 2439) II, p. 600.
(i) S.R. & O. 1921 (No. 1591) p. 1083.