MONEY ORDERS

1959 No. 1334

The Postal Order Warrant, 1959

Made - - - -	*29th July*, 1959
Laid before Parliament	*6th August*, 1959
Coming into Operation	*1st September*, 1959

We, the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, in exercise of all powers given us by sections twenty, twenty-one, twenty-four and eighty-one of the Post Office Act, 1953(a) and of all other powers enabling us in this behalf, do, by this Warrant, made on the representation of Her 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

Interpretation

1.—(1) In this Warrant, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them:

"the Act" means the Post Office Act, 1953;

"the British Islands" means the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man;

"postal order" means a money order issued, in pursuance of Section twenty-one of the Act, or that section as applied by Section twenty-four of the Act, as a British postal order in such special form as may from time to time be prescribed by the Postmaster-General;

"Irish postal orders" means orders similar to British postal orders issued by the postal administration in the Republic of Ireland;

"the payee" means the person entitled to receive the amount of a postal order, or (as the case may be) of an Irish postal order.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1889(b) applies for the interpretation of this Warrant as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament, and as if this Warrant and the Warrants hereby revoked were Acts of Parliament.

PART II

Issue and amounts of postal orders

2.—(1) Postal orders may be issued otherwise than through a postal order issuing machine for the following sums:—

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

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

(*c*) the sum of two pounds, three pounds, four pounds and five pounds.

(2) Postal orders may be issued through a postal order issuing machine for sums in multiples of one penny from sixpence to forty shillings and elevenpence (both inclusive).

(a) 1 & 2 Eliz. 2. c. 36. (b) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

(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

3. The poundage payable for postal orders shall be at the rates specified in the First Schedule hereto.

Prepayment

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

Name of payee and office of payment

5.—(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 shall, before parting with it, fill in the name of the payee (whether or not the postal order is crossed with a view to payment through a banker), and may fill in the name of the post office at which the order is to be paid.

(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 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 for the purpose of these regulations 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 shall 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.

Crossing of postal orders

6.—(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 postal orders otherwise than to bankers

7. The following rules shall apply to the payment of postal orders otherwise than to bankers:—

(1) The receipt at the foot of the order shall be signed by the payee.

(2) When an 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.

(3) When a postal order is made payable to a firm it shall 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 shall 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.

(4) 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.

(5) 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.

(6) 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.

(7) Nevertheless, the signature to the receipt shall in all cases be a sufficient authority to the Postmaster-General for the payment of the order, if that signature purports to be the signature of the payee or if the signature purports to be that of an officer of a company, corporation or society or partner or servant of a firm as aforesaid.

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

(9) 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 mentioned in this Warrant.

Payment of postal orders to bankers

8. The following rules shall apply to the payment of postal orders to bankers:—

(1) If a postal order which is crossed generally is presented for payment by 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 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, writen 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 a banker, may be paid at any post office in the British Islands, notwithstanding that the bank has been filled in with the name of some particular post office.

(4) An order presented by 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 such order has been examined by such officer as the Postmaster-General may from time to time direct.

Payment of postal orders after expiration of six months from last day of month of issue

9. 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 only on payment, by means of postage stamps affixed to the back of the order, of a commission equal to the amount of the original poundage.

Application of Part II

10.—(1) Subject to the following paragraphs of this regulation, this Part shall apply to the issue, payment and treatment of postal orders within the British Islands.

(2) In relation to postal orders issued at any post office under the charge of the postal administration of a country outside the British Islands, being a post office where British postal orders are issued under such an arrangement as is mentioned in Section twenty-four of the Act, the following paragraph shall be substituted for paragraph (3) of regulation two:

"(3) The value of a postal order (other than an order issued through a postal order issuing machine) 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".

(3) The provisions of this Part relating to the issue and payment respectively of postal orders shall apply to the issue and payment respectively of postal orders under the authority of the Postmaster-General, at a British postal agency, or in a ship of the Royal Navy on the high seas or in any port or place outside the British Islands, or at a British Forces' Post Office outside the British Islands:

Provided that the poundage payable for a postal order issued at a British postal agency shall be one halfpenny more than the poundage payable for a postal order issued for the same sum in the British Islands.

(4) The provisions of this Part relating to the payment of postal orders shall apply to the payment under the authority of the Postmaster-General of Irish postal orders: Provided that:—

(*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 values 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 stamps affixed to any such order do not exceed three in number and do not exceed a total of fivepence in value (in the case of orders of the denomination of sixpence) or elevenpence in value (in the case of orders of all other denominations);

(*b*) Regulation nine 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

Issue and payment of postal orders

11. 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.

Remission of poundage

12. The Postmaster-General may remit in whole or in part any poundage payable under this Warrant in such cases or classes of case as he may determine.

Discharge to the Postmaster-General

13. The payment of a postal order or an Irish postal order in accordance with this Warrant to whomsoever made shall discharge the Crown and every officer of the Post Office from all liability whatsoever in respect of that order and payment 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.

Revocation

14. The Warrants mentioned in the Second Schedule hereto are hereby revoked.

Citation and Commencement

15. This warrant may be cited as "The Postal Order Warrant, 1959", and shall come into operation on the 1st day of September, 1959.

Dated this 29th day of July, 1959.

Martin Redmayne,
Michael Hughes-Young,
Two of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

27th July, 1959.

Ernest Marples,
Her Majesty's Postmaster-General.

Regulation 3

THE FIRST SCHEDULE

POUNDAGE

1. Postal orders issued otherwise than through a postal order issuing machine.

Denomination	*Poundage*
	d.
6d. or 1s.	2
Any multiple of 6d. between 1s. 6d and 5s. (both inclusive), or any multiple of 1s. between 6d. and 21s. (both inclusive)	3
£2, £3, £4 or £5	6

2. Postal orders issued through a postal order issuing machine.

Denomination	*Poundage*
	d.
6d. to 1s. 5d. inclusive	2
1s. 6d. to 21s. 11d. inclusive	3
22s. to 23s. 4d inclusive	5
23s. 5d. to 40s. 11d. inclusive	6

Regulation 14

THE SECOND SCHEDULE

WARRANTS REVOKED

The Postal Order Warrant, 1949(a).
The Postal Order Amendment (No. 1) Warrant, 1951(b).
The Postal Order Amendment (No. 2) Warrant, 1952(c).
The Postal Order Amendment (No. 3) Warrant, 1953(d).
The Postal Order Amendment (No. 4) Warrant ,1956(e).
The Postal Order Amendment (No. 5) Warrant, 1957(f).

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

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

(a) S.I. 1949/1266 (1949 I, p. 3456).
(b) S.I. 1951/2051 (1951 II, p. 279).
(c) S.I. 1952/1366 (1952 III, p. 2617).
(d) S.I. 1953/1396 (1953 II, p. 1668).
(e) S.I. 1956/1571 (1956 II, p. 1882).
(f) S.I. 1957/1305 (1957 II, p. 1918).