



**Government of South Georgia  
and the  
South Sandwich Islands**

Invitation to submit proposals to act as Mint for Commemorative Coins



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### List of Abbreviations used in this invitation.

1985 Order	South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands Order 1985 SI 1985 No.449.
BAS	British Antarctic Survey part of NERC
BOT	British Overseas Territory
Commissioner	Commissioner of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
Government	Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
GSGSSI	Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
SGSSI	South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
Territories	South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

### List of Attachments

<b>Attachment 1</b>	<b>Currency Ordinance 2024</b>
<b>Attachment 2</b>	<b>Example Coin Order</b>



## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 This invitation from the Commissioner of the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands is to submit proposals to act as the Government's Mint for the production of commemorative coins.
- 1.2 The Commissioner is seeking to appoint a suitably competent and experienced Mint that can provide high quality commemorative coins in accordance with designs and specifications provided by the Government
- 1.3 Without seeking to limit the scope of service being sought it is contemplated that the Government will require:
  - Minting of commemorative coins of up to £20 denomination for a gold coin, and up to £5 denomination for a coin in any other metal (or combinations of metals and other materials);
  - Design services for single commemorative coins or sets of commemorative coins to be developed in consultation with the Government;
  - Marketing, packaging and sales services for commemorative coins across international markets;
  - Other related matters; and as needs be;
  - General advice on matters pertaining to commemorative coinage.
- 1.4 When reading this invitation please have regard to the tables above – and in particular, the table of abbreviations.



## 2 Background - general

- 2.1 South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands is a British Overseas Territory situated in the South Atlantic. The islands lie around 800 miles east of the Falkland Islands. The Territories are sub-Antarctic. They can only be reached by sea.
- 2.2 These Territories were claimed for the British Crown by Captain Cook on 17 January 1775.
- 2.3 These Territories are governed by a Commissioner appointed by the Crown pursuant to the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Order 1985.<sup>1</sup>
- 2.4 The Commissioner is also, currently, the Governor of the Falkland Islands. The current incumbent is Her Excellency Alison Blake CMG.
- 2.5 In the early twentieth century these Territories supported a population of around 1,500 people largely concerned in the whaling industry centred on seven whaling stations spread around the coastline of South Georgia. When whaling ended what had been the permanent population left.
- 2.6 There are no permanent residents in the Territories, and there is no right to enter or remain in the Territories without the permission of the Government. Typically, South Georgia now supports a population measured in the mid-teens in the winter months and around 30 in the summer months largely comprised of Government Officers, BAS scientists and support staff.
- 2.7 An increasing number of visitors now come to South Georgia each year, primarily to enjoy the abundant array of wildlife. Many of these visitors visit the Government's Post Office at Grytviken which sells commemorative items, including coins.
- 2.8 The Government is based in Government House, Stanley, Falklands Islands. It also has a permanent presence at its Government Offices at King Edward Point on South Georgia.

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<sup>1</sup> SI 1985 No. 449



### **3 The Government, Law and Jurisdictions**

- 3.1 Prior to 3 October 1985 these Territories were ruled as Dependencies of the Falkland Islands. Pursuant to the South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands Order 1985<sup>2</sup> the Territories are now constituted as a separate British Overseas Territory. This 1985 Order forms a significant portion of the Territories' constitution.
- 3.2 The 1985 Order provides that a Commissioner administers the Government. The Commissioner has the right to legislate for the Territories, which includes issuing commemorative coins. The UK Government, usually through the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs has the power to disallow any legislation made meaning his or her agreement is sought before any new Ordinance is brought into force. In certain areas of the law the Commissioner has to seek the approval of the Secretary of State before making any enactments. The UK Government retains the right to legislate for the Territories.
- 3.3 The currency of the Territories is the pound sterling with Bank of England notes and coins being legal tender. Commemorative coins are also legal tender. .
- 3.4 In order for a Commemorative Coin to be lawfully struck and, in turn to enter circulation as legal tender (or be sold) the designs and specifications have to be approved by the Commissioner before they are submitted to HM King for approval. If approval from His Majesty is forthcoming then a formal Commemorative Coin Order has to be made by the Commissioner in accordance with SGSSI law.
- 3.5 It is likely that by the time the Government is in a position to contract with ay Mint that the governing law will be the Currency Ordinance 2024 – an advanced draft copy of which is attached as an appendix. A draft coin order is also attached.

### **4 The Immediate Issues**

Since 2000 the Government has issued between 3 and 5 commemorative coins a year. The UK Mint producing and marketing these coins has now withdrawn from this market. This has led the Government to seek an alternative supplier

- 4.1 .



- 4.2 Whilst the Government remains based in the Falklands Islands, advances in remote working practices in recent years have led to an increasing number of staff engaged to work remotely. Therefore, the Government can transact in-person business in throughout the UK as well as in the Falkland Islands and SGSSI with relative ease.
- 4.3 . All commemorative coins will need to be minted in compliance with domestic legislation. Any provider is advised to note the penalties for striking coins without first obtaining proper permission.
- 4.4 The Government of SGSSI will soon be marking a number of significant anniversaries in the history of the Territory, including the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the possession of the islands for the British Crown on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1775. They will seek to strike coins to mark these important dates, and so any provider must be in a position to commence work on short timescales.
- 4.5 The Government owns the rights to coin designs that were developed by the previous Mint but were never placed into production. The Government would likely seek to have a new provider strike these coins during the initial stages of any commercial relationship.

## **5 The Proposals**

- 5.1 The Government invites all recipients of this invitation to submit proposals to it setting out the nature of the services that could be provided together with the terms and conditions of business and the proposed fees and charges.
- 5.2 The Government would prefer to instruct a Mint on the basis of fixed fees for specified items of work as opposed to paying retainers or other consideration for exclusive service. Those invited to submit proposals are also invited to suggest what work could be undertaken for a fixed fee.



- 5.3 Services are to be provided to the Commissioner and Government in the Falkland Islands and any coins produced are to be for immediate export outside of the UK. As such the Government does not believe VAT is chargeable. In submitting your proposals please state your position clearly vis a vis VAT and indicate what, if any of your services to the Government will be subject to VAT. There is no VAT chargeable or payable in either the Falkland Islands or SGSSI. The Government has no means of being able to recoup VAT from HMRC.
- 5.4 The Government wishes to consider all proposals no later than close of business on 31 April 2024. The Government does not commit to accepting any proposals, nor does it commit to accepting the cheapest proposals.
- 5.5 When advising the Government please be aware that Falkland Islands Standard Time is 3 hours behind Greenwich Mean Time – i.e. 4 hours behind British Summer Time. Neither the Falkland Islands nor the Territories adjust their clocks at any time of year.