

30 July 2003

Dear Exporter

CULTURAL OBJECTS FROM IRAQ

Article 8 of The Iraq (United Nations Sanctions) Order 2003 (SI 2003/1519) prohibits the import or export of illegally removed Iraqi cultural property from the United Kingdom. "Illegally removed Iraqi cultural property" is defined in the Order as -

"Iraqi cultural property and any other item of archaeological, historical, cultural, rare scientific or religious importance illegally removed from any location in Iraq since 6th August 1990. It is immaterial whether the removal was illegal under the law of a part of the United Kingdom or of any other country or territory."

In processing your licence application, the Export Licensing Unit will need to rule out the possibility that the items you are seeking to export fall within this prohibited category. In order to assist the Unit in this task and thus minimise any delays in issuing your licence, it would be helpful if you could provide as much information as possible about your items. In particular, all such applications should be accompanied by a photographic image of each object, together with as much evidence of the provenance of the item as you have available.

Lynn Gates
Head of the Export Licensing Unit

