

MEMORANDUM BY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENTRevision of Postal Rates and Fees

Ministers are asked to give their approval for a general revision of postal rates and fees.

Reasons for the Revision

2. The main reason for which the revision is being proposed is to increase the income from postal services to meet the ever increasing cost of their operation. The revenue of the Posts Division of the Posts and Telephones Department so far is exceeding the expenditure as shown by the following figures:

	<u>1969/70</u>	<u>1970/71</u>	<u>Estimated 1971/72</u>
Revenue	£751,000	£670,000	£726,000
Expenditure	<u>£586,000</u>	<u>£630,000</u>	<u>£706,000</u>
SURPLUS	<u>£165,000</u>	<u>£ 40,000</u>	<u>£ 20,000</u>

Part of this revenue, however, derives from the sale of stamps for philately. These sales cannot be calculated to any correct figure but they are estimated to yield about £200,000 a year. The revenue that is being collected from postal services, therefore, falls short of the expenditure.

3. As the figures given above also show, the surplus of revenue over expenditure this year is estimated to be very small and unless the revenue is increased, next year it may even turn into a deficit, for apart from normal increases in costs, the expenditure may have to rise still further to meet the cost of new Branch Post Offices and that of additional staff.

4. Another reason for the revision is to conform to increases which were agreed upon during the last Congress of the Universal Postal Union, and to meet the higher rates on parcels which are being demanded by other countries as a result of the said agreement. The last Congress of the Union was held in Tokyo in 1969, but its Acts came into force only on the 1st July, 1971. The increases concern the rates on parcels sent abroad or received from abroad, the rates on letter post items sent abroad, and certain other postal fees.

Parcel Rates

5. Each Administration, in order to meet the cost of its parcel post service, is entitled to a <sup>terminal or</sup> land charge on every parcel it receives from abroad or it sends abroad. The terminal charges are regulated by Articles 46 and 48 of the Agreement on Parcels of the Universal Postal Union and by the Final Protocol to the Agreement. Article 46 establishes the basic charges while Article 48 gives the right for an increase of 50%, or for any reduction. The Final Protocol authorises further increases. The maximum charges that Malta can lay on incoming and outgoing parcels are as under:-

1 Kg.	3 Kgs.	5 Kgs.	10 Kgs.
9/-	10/8	14/4	21/11

6. As increases have to be notified to other countries three months in advance, in order to give the advance notice in time, a request for an increase in Malta's charges was made in March. As the maximum rates allowed under the Parcel Agreement are very high and they have, therefore, never been applied in full, it was proposed, however, that the increases be limited to a lower level as follows:-

	1 Kg.	3 Kgs.	5 Kgs.	10 Kgs.
From:-	3/-	3/10	4/7	8/4
To:-	5/2	6/5	8/-	14/2

The increases were approved as proposed and other countries are already being charged accordingly.

7. These increases will have now to be approved for application also on parcels posted locally for abroad. This will have to be done by the amendment of the Parcel Post Rates Regulations which establish the postage rates payable on parcels for abroad. These postage rates include the Malta land charge; the land charge of the countries of destination and that of any transit country, and the cost of transport. The increase to be made in the postage rates on parcels to raise the Malta land charge will also have to include the increases which have been made in the land charges of other countries.

Parcel Air Rates

8. The new rates shall apply to both sea and air parcels, but as the cost of air transport is very high in the case of air parcels, the postage rates are not limited to four as at paragraph 6. In the case of air parcels a minimum rate is fixed for parcels of 1/2 Kg. (1 lb.) and then this minimum is

/increased by ...../

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increased by uniform rate for each additional  $\frac{1}{2}$  Kg.  
 A statement showing present rates and proposed  
 ..... increases for both sea and air parcels is attached -  
 Annex A. An air parcel service is run only with the  
 United Kingdom, Italy and Libya.

Letter Post items for abroad

*revised*

9. The sea rates on letter post items, which include letters, postcards, printed papers and small packets, are regulated by Article 17 of the Convention of the Universal Postal Union and by Article III of the Final Protocol to the Convention which were also raised at the last Congress. Article 17 lays down the basic rates while Article III of the Final Protocol permits Administrations to increase the basic rates by up to 60% or to reduce them by up to 30%. The basic rates with the maximum increases and decreases that are permitted for the minimum weight step of the most important items work out as follows:-

	<u>Basic Rate</u>	<u>+ 60%</u>	<u>- 30%</u>
	d.	s. d.	d.
Letters 1 oz.	10.	1 4	7
Postcards	7	11	5
Printed papers 1 oz. & books	5	8	4

Commonwealth and other foreign rates

10. Malta's postage rates on letter post items are divided into Commonwealth and other foreign rates as under:-

	<u>Commonwealth</u>	<u>Foreign</u>
Letters 1 oz.	5d.	10d.
For each other 1 oz.	3d.	6d.
Postcards	5d.	6d.
Printed papers 1 oz.	5d.	5d.
For each other 2 ozs.	2d.	2d.

Commonwealth rates have always been lower and, therefore, it is proposed that in the case of letters for Commonwealth countries the basic rate be reduced by 30% and in the case of other countries it will be increased by 20%. As a result, the minimum rate on a letter for the Commonwealth will be raised from its present 5d. to 7d. while the rate on a letter to other countries will be increased also by 2d. from 10d. to 1/-. In the case of postcards it is proposed that a uniform rate of 7d. be adopted for all countries.

/Air Correspondence .....

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Air Correspondence

11. In the case of letter post items sent by air the Convention of the Union does not lay down any fixed limits. It simply states that the rates should be closely related to the actual cost. For this end countries have to be grouped according to distance and the rate to vary for each group. In the case of the United Kingdom and certain other European countries such as France and Italy, the minimum surface rate for letters may be also charged, for airmail letters as at present. A statement showing the proposed increases in the rates for surface and air correspondence is attached - Annex B.

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Inland Postage rates

12. In the case of inland postage rates the Convention does not lay down any limits. Like other rates, however, inland rates should be sufficient to meet the cost of the inland letter service. The present inland rates were last revised in 1961. Since then expenditure has risen considerably and so has the income of the population. Since 1961 the Universal Postal Union has raised foreign rates twice in 1964 and in 1969. Our Commonwealth rate in 1961 was 3d. and is now 5d. The rate to other countries has also risen from 6d. to 10d. There is, therefore, no doubt that the present rates are no longer adequate. A general increase of 1d. on all items other than local newspapers, and an increase of ½d. on the letter would be very reasonable. The proposed increases are as follows:-

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	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Letter 1oz.	2d.	3d.
For each additional oz.	1½d.	2d.
Postcards	2d.	3d.
Printed Papers	1d.	2d.
Locally registered newspapers.	½d.	1d.

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A statement giving these increases is attached - Annex C.

Other Postal Fees.

13. Increases are also proposed to be made in fees for the registration of letters, for express delivery, and other fees as set out in Annex D.

/Estimated Revenue .....

Estimated Revenue from the proposed increases

14. The proposed increases are expected to yield an additional revenue of about £170,000 as detailed here under:-

Parcels	£13,000
Letter Post items for abroad	100,000
Inland Posting rates	50,000
Other Postal fees.	5,000
	<u>£168,000</u>
	<u>£168,000</u>

Previous Proposals

15. The need for an increase in the postage rates on letter post items for abroad and in inland postage rates has not been felt recently. A proposal for an increase in these rates was also made in 1970.

Conclusion

16. The Postal Service has a very important role in the life of a community, and, therefore, it should be operated with the greatest possible efficiency. On the other hand, the community will have to appreciate that costs have risen and in the circumstances, it should not resent the increases that are being proposed.

Table showing calculations of proposed new postage rateson Parcels

<u>Countries</u>	<u>Surface Rates</u>							
	Up to 1 Kg.		Up to 3 Kgs.		Up to 5 Kgs.		Up to 10 Kgs.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
<u>United Kingdom:-</u>								
Malta Terminal Charges	5	2	6	5	8	0	14	2
Sea Shares	1	1	2	1	3	6	6	6
United Kingdom Terminal Charges	9	9	11	9	15	6	19	7
Postage	16	0	20	3	27	0	40	3
<u>Italy:-</u>								
Malta Terminal Charges	5	2	6	5	8	0	14	2
Sea Shares		7	1	5	2	10	5	0
Italy Terminal Charges	5	6	6	8	8	5	14	10
Postage	11	3	14	6	19	3	34	0
<u>Libya:-</u>								
Malta Terminal Charges	5	2	6	5	8	0	14	2
Sea Shares		7	1	5	2	10	5	0
Libya Terminal Charges	5	6	6	8	8	5	14	10
Postage	11	3	14	6	19	3	34	0
<u>Australia:-</u>								
Malta Terminal Charges	5	2	6	5	8	0	14	2
Sea Shares		7	1	5	2	10	5	0
Italy Transit Land Charges		9	1	1	1	9	3	6
Sea Shares	1	7	4	2	7	6	13	0
Australia Terminal Charges	5	2	7	2	9	5	14	10
Postage	13	3	20	3	29	6	50	6
<u>Canada:-</u>								
Malta Terminal Charges	5	2	6	5	8	0	14	2
Sea Shares		7	1	5	2	10	5	0
Italy Transit Land Charges		9	1	1	1	9	3	6
Sea Shares	1	2	2	8	5	0	8	6
Canada Terminal Charges	4	1	7	2	11	8	19	4
Postage	11	9	18	9	29	3	50	6

/U.S.A. .... /

## L-ARKIVJI NAZZIONALI TA' MALTA

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ANNEX A (Cont.)U.S.A.:-

	1 Kgs.	2 Kgs.	3 Kgs.	4 Kgs.	5 Kgs.	6 Kgs.	7 Kgs.	8 Kgs.	9 Kgs.	10 Kgs.
Malta Terminal Charges	5.2	6.5	6.5	8.-	8.-	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.2
See Shares	-.7	1.5	1.5	2.10	2.10	5.-	5.-	5.-	5.-	5.-
Italy Transit Charges	-.9	1.1	1.1	1.9	1.9	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
Sea Shares	1.3	2.10	2.10	5.4	5.4	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3
U.S.A. Terminal Charges	4.-	8.3	12.3	16.4	20.7	24.4	28.7	32.7	36.10	40.10
Postage	11.9	20.-	24.-	34.3	38.6	56.3	60.6	64.6	68.9	72.9

TABLE SHOWING PROPOSED NEW PARCEL RATES COMPARED WITH PRESENT RATES

		<u>SURFACE</u>																			
		<u>Up to 1 Kg.</u>																			
		<u>1 Kg.</u>		<u>2 Kgs.</u>		<u>3 Kgs.</u>		<u>4 Kgs.</u>		<u>5 Kgs.</u>		<u>6 Kgs.</u>		<u>7 Kgs.</u>		<u>8 Kgs.</u>		<u>9 Kgs.</u>		<u>10 Kgs.</u>	
United Kingdom	New	16s. 0d.	20s. 3d.	27s. 0d.	40s. 3d.																
	Present	11s. 3d.	14s. 6d.	19s. 3d.	30s. 3d.																
Italy	New	11s. 3d.	14s. 6d.	19s. 3d.	34s. 0d.																
	Present	7s. 0d.	9s. 0d.	10s. 9d.	19s. 9d.																
Libya	New	11s. 3d.	14s. 6d.	19s. 3d.	34s. 0d.																
	Present	7s. 0d.	9s. 0d.	10s. 9d.	19s. 9d.																
Australia	New	17s. 0d.	20s. 3d.	29s. 6d.	50s. 6d.																
	Present	15s. 6d.	19s. 6d.	25s. 0d.	44s. 9d.																
Canada	New	11s. 9d.	18s. 9d.	29s. 3d.	50s. 6d.																
	Present	8s. 9d.	14s. 9d.	20s. 0d.	38s. 9d.																
U.S.A.	<u>1 Kg.</u>																				
	<u>2 Kgs.</u>																				
New Present	<u>3 Kgs.</u>	11s. 9d.	20s. 0d.	24s. 0d.	34s. 3d.	38s. 6d.	56s. 3d.	60s. 6d.	64s. 6d.	68s. 9d.	72s. 9d.										
	<u>4 Kgs.</u>	10s. 6d.	16s. 3d.	19s. 6d.	25s. 3d.	28s. 6d.	41s. 9d.	45s. 3d.	48s. 9d.	52s. 0d.	55s. 6d.										
United Kingdom	<u>Air</u>																				
	New Present	<u>First ½ Kg.</u>	18s. 0d.	13s. 0d.	4s. 3d.	3s. 9d.															
Italy	New Present	<u>For every additional ½ Kg.</u>	12s. 0d.	7s. 6d.	2s. 9d.	2s. 9d.															
	Libya	Present	7s. 6d.		2s. 3d.																



Table showing proposed new surface and air rates  
on letter post items

Surface Mail

<u>Weight Not over</u>	<u>Foreign Letters</u>		<u>Commonwealth Letters</u>	
	New	Present	New	Present
1 oz.	1s. 0d.	10d.	7d.	5d.
2 ozs.	2s. 0d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 0d.	8d.
4 ozs.	2s. 6d.	2s. 4d.	1s. 6d.	1s. 2d.
8 ozs.	5s. 3d.	4s. 4d.	3s. 0d.	2s. 2d.
1 lb.	10s. 0d.	8s. 4d.	5s. 9d.	4s. 2d.
2 lbs.	16s. 6d.	16s. 4d.	9s. 6d.	8s. 2d.
4 lbs.	26s. 3d.	32s. 4d.	15s. 3d.	16s. 2d.
<u>Postcards</u>	7d.	6d.	7d.	5d.

Printed Papers

<u>Weight Not Over</u>	<u>Foreign and Commonwealth Countries</u>	
	New	Present
1 oz.	5d.	5d.
2 ozs.	7d.	5d.
4 ozs.	9d.	7d.
8 ozs.	1s. 3d.	11d.
1 lb.	2s. 0d.	1s. 7d.
2 lbs.	3s. 3d.	2s. 11d.
4 lbs.	5s. 6d.	5s. 7d.
For books maximum 11 lbs. per additional 2 lbs.	2s. 9d.	2s. 8d.

Small Packets

<u>Weight Not Over</u>	New	Present
4 ozs.	1s. 0d.	1s. 6d.
8 ozs.	2s. 0d.	1s. 6d.
1 lb.	3s. 6d.	2s. 8d.
2 lbs.	6s. 0d.	5s. 4d.

RATES OF POSTAGE ON AIR MAILS

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DESTINATION	PRESENT RATES					PROPOSED RATES					
	Letters per ½ oz.	Postcards	Other Articles per 1 oz. (excluding parcels)	Newspapers per 1 oz.	Aerogrammes	Letters per ½ oz.	Postcards	Other Articles per 1 oz. (excluding parcels)	Newspapers per 1 oz.	Aerogrammes	Remarks
UNITED KINGDOM	s. d. 4	s. d. 5	s. d. 3	s. d. 3	s. d. 5	s. d. 4	s. d. 7	s. d. 6	s. d. 4	s. d. 7	a) Minimum charge 7d.
FRANCE, ITALY, LIBYA, MONACO, SAN MARINO, VATICAN CITY	b) 5	6	a) 4	a) 3	10	b) 6	7	b) 5	e) 4	1 2	b) Minimum charge 1/-
CYPRUS, SWITZERLAND	b) 8	6	6	6	6	b) 8	7	b) 8	6	1 3	b) Minimum charge 1/-
ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ANDORRA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA, CANARY ISLANDS, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DENMARK, FAROE ISLANDS, FINLAND, GERMANY, GREECE, GREENLAND, HOLLAND, HUNGARY, ICELAND, IRELAND (REP. OF), ISRAEL, JORDAN, LEBANON, LUXEMBOURG, MACEDONIA, MOROCCO, NORWAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UKRAINE, U.S.S.R., UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC, WHITE RUSSIA, YUGOSLAVIA	b) 8	6	6	6	10	b) 8	7	b) 8	6	1 3	b) Minimum charge 5d.
IZOLES, BAHRAIN ISLANDS, CAIRO, CAIRO, CAPE VERDE, CHAD, DANUBEY, DORA, DUBAI, ETHIOPIA, FRENCH TERR. OF THE AFARS AND SOAS, GABON, GAMBIA, GHANA, GUINEA REP., IRAQ, IVORY COAST, KUWAIT, LIBERIA, MALI, MAURITANIA, MUSCAT, NIGER, NIGERIA, PORTUGUESE GUINEA, QATAR, ST. THOMAS & PRINCE, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE	b) 8	6	6	6	10	b) 8	7	b) 8	6	1 3	b) Minimum charge 5d.

/SIERRA LEONE

DESTINATION	PRESENT RATES					PROPOSED RATES					
	Letters per ½ oz.	Postcards	Other Articles per 1 oz. (excluding parcels)	Newspapers per 1 oz.	Aero- grams	Letters per ½ oz.	Postcards	Other Articles per 1 oz. (excluding parcels)	Newspapers per 1 oz.	Aero- grams	Remarks
SIERRA LEONE, SPANISH GUINEA, SPANISH WEST AFRICA, SOUTHERN YEMEN, SUDAN, TOGO, REP., YEMEN, SAUDI ARABIA, YEMEN, FRENCH CAMEROONS	s. d. 1 3	s. d. 8	s. d. 1 1	s. d. 6	s. d. 10	s. d. 1 3	s. d. 6	s. d. 1 1	s. d. 6	s. d. 1 0	
AFGHANISTAN, ALASKA, BHUTAN, BOVISAN, ... CANADA, CAYMAN ISLANDS, INDIA, KENYA, LESOTHO, MALAWI, MALDIVES ISLE, NEPAL, PAKISTAN, PORTO RICO, RWANDA, ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON, SOMALIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SWITZERLAND, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, VIRGIN ISLANDS (U.S.A.), ZAMBIA	s. d. 1 0	s. d. 9	s. d. 1 3	s. d. 9	s. d. 10	s. d. 1 0	s. d. 9	s. d. 1 3	s. d. 9	s. d. 1 0	
ANGOLA, BENIN, BURUNDI, CAMBODIA, ISLES, CUBA (HAVANA), CONGO (DEM. REP.), CUBA REPUBLIC, MADAGASCAR, MALI, MALI, SEYCHELLES	s. d. 1 9	s. d. 1 0	s. d. 1 6	s. d. 1 0	s. d. 10	s. d. 1 9	s. d. 1 0	s. d. 1 6	s. d. 1 0	s. d. 1 0	
BARBADOS, BRAZIL, BRITISH HONDURAS, BURMA, CYPRUS ISLES, COLUMBIA, COSTA RICA, DOMINICAN REP., ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HAITI, HONDURAS REP., HONG KONG, JAMAICA, MALAYSIA, MALI, MALI, MEXICO, NICARAGUA, NICARAGUA, PANAMA, CANAL ZONE, PARAGUAY, PERU, PHILIPPINES, SAUDI ARABIA, SINGAPORE, SINGAPORE, THAILAND, TURKEY & CYPRUS ISLANDS, VIRGIN ISLANDS (BRITISH)	s. d. 2 0	s. d. 11 0	s. d. 1 8	s. d. 1 0	s. d. 10	s. d. 2 0	s. d. 1 0	s. d. 1 8	s. d. 1 0	s. d. 1 0	

INQUIRY ...

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DESTINATION	PRESENT RATES					PREPARED RATES					
	Letters per ½ oz.	Postcards	Other Articles per 1 oz. (excluding parcels)	Newspapers per 1 oz.	Aero- grams	Letters per ½ oz.	Postcards	Other Articles per 1 oz. (excluding parcels)	Newspapers per 1 oz.	Aero- grams	Remarks
ANGUILLA, ANTIGUA, ASCENSION, BARBADOS, BOLIVIA, BRUNEI, CAMBODIA, CHINA, DOMINICA, FALKLAND ISLANDS, FRENCH GUIANA, GRENADA, GUADELOUPE, GUYANA, INDONESIA, LAOS, MACAO, MARTINIQUE, MONTSERRAT, NETHERLANDS, ANTILLES NEVIS, PARAGUAY, PERU, ST. CHRISTOPHER, ST. KITTS, ST. LUCIA, ST. VINCENT, SURINAM, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA, VIET-NAM ....	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.		
AUSTRALIA ....	2 6	1 3	2 1	1 3	10	2 6	1 3	2 11	1 3	1 0	
ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIAN TERRITORIES & FRENCH ANTARCTICA, BARKS ISLANDS, CAROLINE ISLANDS, CHILI, COOK ISLANDS, CHRISTMAS ISLANDS, FIJI ISLANDS, FRENCH POLYNESIA, GILBERT & ELLISE ISLANDS GIAN, JAPAN, KOREA, MARIAN ISLANDS, MARSHALL ISLANDS, NAURU, NEW CALEDONIA, NEW GUINEA, NEW HEBRIDES, NEW ZEALAND, NORFOLK ISLES, PAPUA, PHILIPPINES, PITCAIRN ISLANDS, PORTUGUESE TIMOR, SAO TOME & PRINCE ISLANDS, TONGA, TORRES ISLANDS, ...	c) 1 0	1 6	2 6	1 6	1 0	d) 1 6	1 6	2 6	1 6	1 0	d) per ½ oz.

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INLAND POSTAGE RATES AND FEES

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Letters:- up to 1 oz.	2d.	3d.
each additional oz.	1½d.	2d.
Postcards	2d.	3d.
Printed Papers for every 2 ozs.	1d.	2d.
Locally registered newspapers.	½d.	1d.
Parcels: up to 3 lbs.	9d.	1s. 0d.
up to 7 lbs.	1s. 3d.	1s. 6d.
up to 11 lbs.	1s. 9d.	2s. 0d.
up to 22 lbs.	3s. 0d.	3s. 6d.
Registration of letters, etc.	6d.	9d.
Compensation for the loss of Registered letters, etc.	£5 0s. 0d.	£6 0s. 0d.
Inquiries in connection with any postal articles.	3d.	6d. <del>9d.</del>
Post Office Boxes.	£3 3s. 0d.	£4 10s. 0d.

OVERSEAS POSTAL FEES

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Registration of letters, etc.	1s. 6d.	1s. 8d.
Express Service	1s. 3d.	1s. 9d.
Advice of Delivery	9d.	1s. 3d.
Enquiries in connection with any Postal Articles	9d.	1s. 3d.
International Reply Coupons	1s. 6d.	2s. 0d.
Commonwealth Reply Coupons	7d.	10d.
Compensation for the loss of registered letters, etc.	£3 8s. 0d.	£5 8s. 0d.

(Fixed According to the  
Tokyo Convention)

EXPLANATORY NOTES

ANNEX A

The decrease in the new parcel rates (up to 1 Kg.) to Australia is due to Italy's recent lowering of her transit charges.

ANNEX B

The present rates for surface letters are calculated per one ounce. According to the Tokyo Convention, the present 64 weight steps have to be reduced to seven.

Similarly, the printed paper and small packet weight steps have also been reduced from 52 and 13 to 7 and 4, respectively.