

## A Royal Household Mail TimeLine from 1990-Q1 2012

*All of this information has been supplied by the relevant Court Postmaster and is therefore guaranteed as to its accuracy*

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| 1990 | 21 December | Adrian Vidler appointed Court Postmaster. He had been Assistant Court Postmaster from 15 March 1985.   |
| 1992 | 26 June     | TPO service last used to Holyroodhouse.  |
| 1992 | 8 October   | TPO service last used to Balmoral Castle.  |
| 1993 | 26 June     | Flights by Skynet British Midland from London (Heathrow-Edinburgh, then by van) first made to Holyroodhouse. A postman accompanied the mail. Service only in use when The Queen was in residence. Used for transferring Government Boxes. A BA scheduled flight was utilised instead if The Queen was in residence at weekends, escorted by a van. |
| 1993 | 14 August   | Flights by BA first made to Balmoral Castle from London. A postman accompanied the mail. Service only in use when The Queen was in residence. Used for transferring Government Boxes.  |
| 1994 | 7 February  | Last day for old-style red name badges at Buckingham Palace. <i>GHM has one!</i>   |
| 1994 | 8 February  | New name badge style introduced at Buckingham Palace (Crown over Buckingham Palace / Royal Mail / forename) <i>GHM has one!</i>  |
| 1995 | (probably)  | New name badge style introduced at Windsor Castle (Crown over Windsor Castle/ Royal Mail / forename). Only two made. <i>GHM has one!</i>   |
| 1996 | 6 February  | TPO service last used to Sandringham House.  |
| 1996 | 20 December | Despatches to Sandringham House by road service commenced.   |
| 1998 | 12 January  | Radical new Buckingham Palace 1 <sup>st</sup> class franking machine die introduced.   |
| 1998 | 1 February  | The position of the Court Postmaster was upgraded to Superintendent (PE "A"). Previously an Assistant Superintendent grading. The job content of Court Postmaster was re-evaluated again from 2 February 2003, when it was regarded as a (SB9) Senior Managerial position.   |
| 1999 | 5 April     | Radical new Windsor Castle 1 <sup>st</sup> class franking machine die introduced.  |
| 1999 | 11 June*    | Royal Telemessage service ended (*date to arrive).   |
| 1999 | 12 June     | Royal Card service introduced (to arrive - The Queen's official birthday). 22,000 cards sent in 2003. Cards are sent two days prior to receipt date.   |
| 2000 | 6 July      | Court Post Office counter service discontinued at Holyroodhouse.   |

2000	4 August	Mr A (Tony) Nicholls, The Queen's Postman delivered the 100 <sup>th</sup> Royal Birthday Card from Her Majesty The Queen to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. Opened by sword.
2000	9 October	Court Post Office counter service discontinued at Balmoral Castle.
2001	11 February	Court Post Office counter service discontinued at Sandringham House.
2001	31 March	The Court Post Office's postal and telegraph services ceased to be provided free by the Post Office.
2001	1 April	The Household were charged for postal services from this date. Note how from the following day, 2 <sup>nd</sup> class post was utilised for non-urgent mail.
2001	1 April	Michael Delaney appointed Assistant Court Postmaster.
2001	2 April	Windsor Castle 2nd class franking machine die introduced. Note how from this date, 2 <sup>nd</sup> class post was utilised for non-urgent mail.
2001	2 April	Buckingham Palace 2nd class franking machine die introduced. Note how from this date, 2 <sup>nd</sup> class post was utilised for non-urgent mail.
2002	11 January	A Highgrove House Postage Paid handstamp introduced into service.
2002	4 June	David Wren, previously Assistant at The House of Commons, appointed temporary Court Postmaster. Last day of service 29 August 2003.
2002	28 June	Last day of service for Adrian Vidler as Court Postmaster, who retired.
2002	14 July	The position of Assistant Court Postmaster became obsolete, the post now being known as Deputy Court Postmaster.
2003	1 September	Michael Delaney, who had joined 13 years previously as a cadet, starts his new role as the Court Postmaster.
2006		David C Baxter appointed Court Postmaster.
2008		Second Class predominantly used instead of the more expensive First Class.
2012		Diamond Jubilee wavy-line cancellations used as part of the meter franking machine at Buckingham Palace in place of standard PPI. The wavy-lines cancelled a gold (initially) then diamond blue (from its issue date) Machin definitive stamp.