



10<sup>th</sup> August 2015

Dear Exporter

## **CULTURAL OBJECTS FROM SYRIA**

The Export Control (Syria Sanctions) (Amendment) Order 2014 SI No. 2014 1896 of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014 (the Order), which came into force on 8 August 2014, provides for the enforcement of trade sanctions relating to Syrian cultural property specified in Article 11c of Council Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 (the Regulation) and creates new offences and penalties for their breach. The Regulation prohibits throughout the EU the import, export, transfer, or provision of brokering services for the import, export or transfer, of Syrian cultural property and other goods described in it, where there are reasonable grounds to suspect they have been removed illegally or without the consent of their owner. The Regulation provides as follows: –

### *Article 11c*

1. *It shall be prohibited to import, export, transfer, or provide brokering services related to the import, export or transfer of, Syrian cultural property goods and other goods of archaeological, historical, cultural, rare scientific or religious importance, including those listed in Annex XI, where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the goods have been removed from Syria without the consent of their legitimate owner or have been removed in breach of Syrian law or international law, in particular if the goods form an integral part of either the public collections listed in the inventories of the conservation collections of Syrian museums, archives or libraries, or the inventories of Syrian religious institutions.*
2. *The prohibition in paragraph 1 shall not apply if it is demonstrated that:*
  - (a) *the goods were exported from Syria prior to **15 March 2011**<sup>1</sup>; or*
  - (b) *the goods are being safely returned to their legitimate owners in Syria.*

In processing your licence application, the Export Licensing Unit (ELU) will need to rule out the possibility that the goods you are seeking to export fall within this prohibited category. In order to assist the ELU in this task please provide as much information as possible about the goods, in particular, all such applications

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<sup>1</sup> Date amended from 9 May 2011 to 15 March 2011 by Council Regulation (EU) 2015/827, which entered into force on 30 May 2015. Council Regulation (EU) 2015/827 is implemented in the UK partly through the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 and partly through an amendment to the Export Control (Syria Sanctions) Order 2013, SI No. 2013/2012 coming into force on 11 August 2015.

should be accompanied by a photographic image of each object, together with as much evidence of their provenance as is available.

James Morrison  
Export Licensing Manager