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## PRESS RELEASE

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London, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016

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### **The Royal Mint and World Platinum Investment Council (WPIC) to partner on new range of platinum investment products**

- **Move marks first bullion platinum offering from The Royal Mint**
- **Partnership supports WPIC's mission to stimulate investor demand for physical platinum worldwide**

**London, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016:** The World Platinum Investment Council (WPIC) and The Royal Mint today announced a strategic partnership to deliver a new range of physical platinum investment products suited to retail investors internationally.

The move marks The Royal Mint's first entry into the platinum bullion market. The partnership is the latest in a series of strategic initiatives from the WPIC to stimulate further investor demand for physical platinum and increase the number and type of platinum investment opportunities available worldwide.

Under the agreement, the WPIC will work with The Royal Mint to develop and launch a range of platinum bullion coins and bars to suit a wide range of investor needs. A number of new products will be launched throughout 2017.

The Royal Mint, a 1,000-year-old institution owned by HM Treasury and the world's leading export mint, has successfully been producing precious metal coinage since the 9<sup>th</sup> Century and has, throughout this time, continued to strike coins in gold, silver - and soon platinum. With the launch of bullion trading site [www.royalmintbullion.com](http://www.royalmintbullion.com) in 2014, The Royal Mint became the first mint to offer bullion coins and bars direct to individuals on a 24/7 basis, dispatched to the customer or stored on their behalf in The Royal Mint's vault - The Vault™.

With support from the WPIC, The Royal Mint will expand its portfolio to include the production and marketing of platinum products alongside its existing, internationally-renowned bullion coin and bar range. For the first time, UK and international investors will have the opportunity to purchase platinum bullion from the world's leading export mint.

#### **Commenting on the announcement, David Crawford, Program Manager at the World**

**Platinum Investment Council, said:** "The Royal Mint is one of the world's oldest and foremost authorities and issuers of bullion coins and bars, and we are honoured to be working with them. It is the WPIC mission to increase the range of sustainable investment options available in global

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markets. Platinum has historically been a store of value and source of long-term appreciation. As such, this new product range from The Royal Mint is good news for retail investors.”

**Commenting on the announcement, Chris Howard, The Royal Mint’s Director of Bullion, said,** “The introduction of platinum to our portfolio is the next logical step for The Royal Mint and increases the choice available to our customers, supporting our ambition to provide the ‘complete bullion solution’. Given the significant growth in our bullion activities in recent years, we are excited to be entering this new marketplace and look forward to working with the WPIC to expand the range of trusted Royal Mint Bullion products available to investors.”

**-Ends-**

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**Notes to Editors:**

**About the World Platinum Investment Council**

The World Platinum Investment Council Ltd. (WPIC) is a global market authority on physical platinum investment, formed to meet the growing investor demand for objective and reliable platinum market intelligence. WPIC’s mission is to stimulate global investor demand for physical platinum through both actionable insights and targeted product development. WPIC was created in 2014 by the six leading platinum producers in South Africa: Anglo American Platinum Ltd, Aquarius Platinum Ltd, Impala Platinum Ltd, Lonmin plc, Northam Platinum Ltd and Royal Bafokeng Platinum Ltd. The World Platinum Investment Council is not authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority to give investment advice.

For further information, please visit [www.platinuminvestment.com](http://www.platinuminvestment.com).

WPIC’s offices are located at: 64 St James’s Street, London, SW1A 1NF.

**About The Royal Mint**

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**The Royal Mint** has an unbroken history of minting British coinage dating back over 1,000 years. By the late thirteenth century the organisation was based in the Tower of London, and remained there for over 500 years. By 1812 The Royal Mint had moved out of the Tower to premises on London's Tower Hill. In 1967 the building of a new Royal Mint began on its current site in South Wales, UK.

The Royal Mint's bullion division and online trading site [www.royalmintbullion.com](http://www.royalmintbullion.com) offers a range of bullion coins and bars, available for delivery direct to purchasers, or for storage in The Vault™ - The Royal Mint's securely guarded bullion storage facility. Royal Mint bullion coins are tested to the most rigorous standards and are backed by proclamation guaranteed by Act of Parliament.

In June 2015, The Royal Mint launched Signature Gold, a new addition to its bullion trading service, allowing customers to purchase and own a fractional amount of a 400 oz gold bar from [www.royalmintbullion.com](http://www.royalmintbullion.com).

### About Platinum

Platinum is one of the rarest metals in the world with distinctive qualities making it highly valued across a number of diverse demand segments. Platinum's unique physical and catalytic properties have established its value in industrial applications. At the same time, its unique precious metal attributes have made it the premier jewellery metal.

Platinum's supply comes from two main sources: primary mining output, and recycling, which typically comes from end of life auto catalysts and jewellery recycling. Over the last five years, between 72% and 77% of total annual platinum supply (in refined ounces) has come from primary mining output.

Global demand for platinum is strong and becoming more diverse. There are four core segments of platinum demand: automotive, industrial, jewellery and investment demand.

Platinum demand from autocatalysts has equated to between 37% and 42% of total demand in the last five years. Platinum's diverse other industrial uses account on average for a little over 20% of total global demand (five year average). Over the same period, global annual jewellery demand has averaged 34% of total platinum demand. Investment is the smallest category of platinum demand and also the most variable over the past five years, ranging between 2% and 11% of total demand (excluding movements in vaulted investor holdings).