

## **Exemption 29 Annex 111 Lead in crystal glass**

### **Introduction:**

I am in favour of the renewal of exemption no 29 (Renewal request) I am submitting this document as a designer who has worked with, and indeed made my living, out of lead crystal lighting design. I have gained 30 years experience in dealing with this product and its important lead constituent, and while my observations may not be technical in nature, I have sufficient experience in the crystal industry to outline why lead content is so important a constituent in the designing of a crystal lighting product.

### **Company History.**

My company Canning Design Ltd was formed in 2009 following the closure of Waterford Crystal Ltd. I had worked in Waterford Crystal as its Chief Lighting Designer for 24 years at the time of closure. Since 2009 I have been retained as a consultant lighting designer by Waterford where my design work continues with them throughout their comprehensive lighting range. I am responsible for the design and development of range lighting for Waterford plus the special project market where we are commissioned to provide bespoke lighting to iconic Worldwide locations (see images attached).

### **Scope of Design Work.**

**List of Global projects** **1986:** State Parliament Building Melbourne Australia. **1986:** Mosque Jeddah Saudi Arabia **1986-1988:** Amir Palace Doha Qatar (Value £1m) **1989-1990:** Sheraton Towers Southgate Hotel Melbourne Australia. Design and project managed project from concept to installation. **1992:** English Turn Golf and Country Club. New Orleans, USA. **1993:** Crystal Shopping Mall. Waterford Conn USA **1994:** Governor's Mansion Annapolis Maryland USA **1997:** Birmingham Metropole Hotel UK. **1997:** Crystal Symphony Cruise Liner, Finland. **1998:** Moscow Pub. Moscow, Russia. **1999-** Times Square Millennium Ball **2000-2006:** Holland America Line Vista Class Cruise Ships. (Value \$2.5m) Venice, Italy. **2001:** Sultan of Brunei Palace **2001:** Sun Tun Lok Restaurant Kowloon Hong Kong **2001:** Elite Retail, Jakarta, Indonesia. **2004:** Bruniran, Brunei. **2004:** Grand Hyatt Kathmandu **2006:** Commercial Bank Doha Qatar **2009:** Ede and Ravenscroft, Retail outlets. Cambridge, Chancery lane, Saville Row, Edinburgh. UK **2010-2015:** Farglory Developments Taipei Taiwan (Value \$1.2m)

**List of Irish Projects Ireland:** **1990:** Dublin Castle, Dublin Ireland. St. Patricks Hall. **1991:** Senate Buildings Dublin. Ireland. (Seanad Eireann) **1998:** Dublin Mosque Dublin Ireland **1996:** Conrad Hotel Dublin Ireland **1996:** Westbury Hotel Dublin Ireland **1997:** Jury's Hotel Dublin Ireland **1998:** Berkeley Court Hotel Dublin Ireland **2001:** 4 Seasons Hotel, Dublin Ireland **2002:** Westin Hotel, Dublin Ireland. **2004:** City West Conference Centre. Ireland. **2005:** Croke Park Stadium Dublin Ireland. **2006:** Gaiety Theatre Dublin Ireland. **2006:** Dromoland Castle. Clare. Ireland. **2008:** Grand Hotel, Malahide, Dublin. **2009:** Theatre Royal, Waterford Ireland. **2009:** Martinstown Stud, Kilmallock, Limerick. Ireland. (€1m) **2010:** O'Loughlin's Hotel Portlaoise Ireland. **2013:** Milltown House Private Residence.

**Images of lighting projects completed by Waterford Crystal.**



Times Square Ball New York



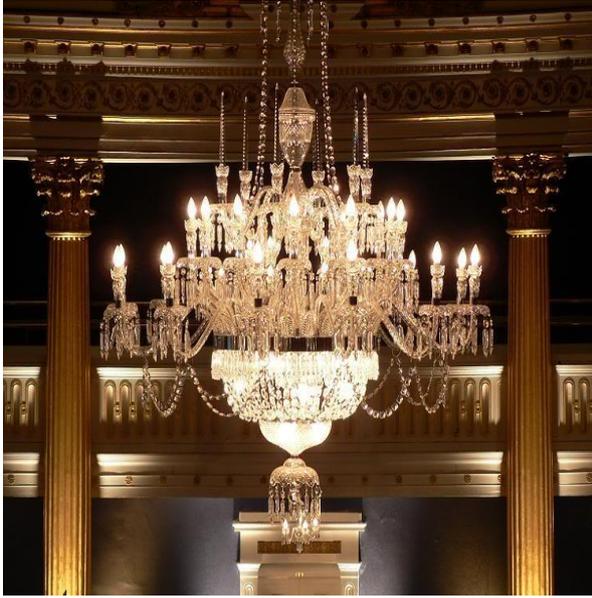
Westminster Abbey London



House of Parliament Melbourne Australia



Kennedy Centre for Performing Arts Washington DC



St Patricks Hall Dublin Castle.



National Concert Hall Dublin

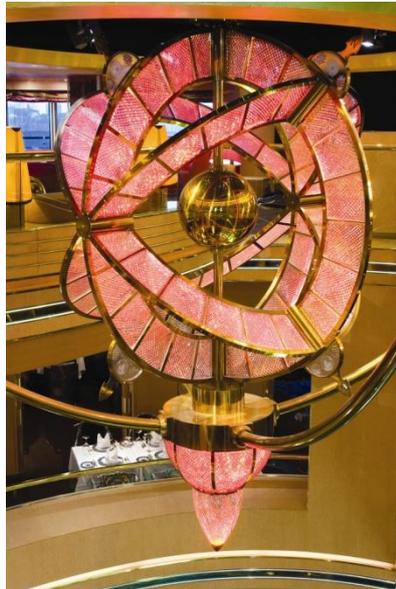
Holland America Line Vista Series Cruise Ships



MS Westerdam



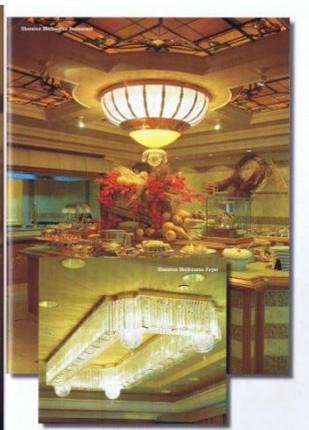
MS Oosterdam



MS Noordam



MS Zuiderdam



Sheraton Melbourne Australia



Croke Park Stadium Dublin



Mosque Jeddah Saudi Arabia



Gaiety Theatre Dublin.

All the above projects would not have occurred without the use of Waterford full lead Crystal.

### **Lighting range design.**

The 'range' lighting consists of, on average, eight new lighting products, (chandeliers, portable lamp, and wall sconces) being launched annually on World markets, giving a launch of at least 240 new lighting products over the thirty years I have designed products for Waterford Crystal.

## The importance of lead crystal in our design.

### **Our Design Philosophy...**

In designing a lighting product whether it hangs from a cruise liner ceiling weighing three tons or is a lamp that sits on your bedside table, the design principle is the same; you have to capture the light.

*Once the light is captured, it has to be distributed maintaining that fine balance between  
aesthetics and functionality.*

Waterford Crystal is synonymous with the use of lead crystal in its products, and it is crucial in how how 'we capture that light' the lead that is contained in Waterford Crystal gives that crystal it's unique refractive index. This light effect and dispersion cannot be artificially recreated by using any other inherent constituent.

The lead content within Waterford's crystal gives the crystal a softness and malleability that allows the blowing and cutting craftsmen shape and cut the most intricate shapes and patterns into the product, and this in turn allows me as a designer to extend the capabilities of these craftsmen to create pieces that non lead competitors cannot attempt or produce. The cutting wheel 's cutting angle can cut into the soft material easily giving the craftsman a comfortable control and ease of handling.

A Waterford chandelier emits a refractive light that no other competitor can imitate due to its lead content and the differentiation can be immediately be seen by the viewer.

The unique ability of our artisans to craft the lighting product and the opulence and brilliance of the product will be lost, as will our creative competitive edge if lead is to be omitted.

Waterford will no longer able to deliver lead crystal solutions to similar projects as shown above, in turn my design business will no longer have in its portfolio the unique ability to design and craft full lead crystal lighting products, which now accounts for 90% of my business.

**Billy Canning BDes ANCAD MSDI**

**15/10/2015**

[www.canningdesign.ie](http://www.canningdesign.ie)