

retention is not specified, the period is to be that provided in Rules 465 and 469 for undelivered articles (except special-request articles).

Inland.—All undelivered correspondence—letters and other articles—bearing on the cover the name and address of the sender is to be impressed with the “Return to sender” stamp and returned direct and unopened by Chief Postmasters. This instruction applies to registered and ordinary correspondence, the only exception being coin letters that have been compulsorily registered, which must be forwarded to the Dead Letter Office after having been retained at the disposal of the addressees for the prescribed periods. The inclusion in an A.R. form of the name of the sender is not to be taken as a special request for the return to that person of the relative letter, if undeliverable. An A.R. letter is to be returned direct to the sender by the Chief Postmaster only if the cover bears the name and address of the sender. Special-request printed matter prepaid 1½d. must be surcharged 1½d. on return. Unclaimed official letters from any Government Department may be returned direct by Chief Postmasters whether the letters bear a special request or not, provided that the Department that sent them can be determined without opening the letters. Undelivered electoral notices issued by a Registrar of Electors who is also a Postmaster may be inscribed “Return to sender,” and returned by the Postmaster direct to the Registrar of Electors concerned. Letters so returned are still to be treated as registered.

Foreign.—All undelivered ordinary correspondence—letters and other articles—fully prepaid, originating in Australia, the United Kingdom, or the United States of America, and bearing thereon a special request for return to the sender, should be impressed with the index-stamp, “Return to sender,” and be returned direct to the office of origin in Australia, the United Kingdom, or the United States of America, if a mail be made up for that office, or, if no mail be made up, then to the relative circulating office. At offices that do not make up direct mails for Australia, the United Kingdom, or the United States, the special-request correspondence, after being impressed with the index-stamp, must be forwarded to the nearest office making up such mails. The same course will be followed in Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America with special-request correspondence originating in New Zealand. Such correspondence is to be returned by Chief Postmasters to the senders direct.

Unpaid or insufficiently prepaid correspondence is to be returned through the Dead Letter Office.

All undelivered registered correspondence, whether special-request or not, originating in Australia, the United Kingdom, or the United States of America, must be forwarded to the Dead Letter Office for disposal.

All undelivered correspondence, originating in countries beyond New Zealand, except Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, must be forwarded to the Dead Letter Office for disposal.

464. Separate records of—

- (1.) Inland unclaimed letters, &c., returned to senders ;
 - (2.) Unclaimed special-request letters, &c., received from Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, returned to senders ; and
 - (3.) Unclaimed special-request letters, &c., returned to Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America ;
- must be kept by Chief Postmasters and forwarded to the Secretary at the end of each year on annual return 3.