EMIDEC 2400 computer.

Delivery list and applications.

The development of this computer at Electric and Musical Industries Ltd. (EMI) spanned the period approximately late-1957 to mid-1962 – (see the historical note on EMI computers, given in section M1X5 of the *Our Computer Heritage* website).

The date of the delivery of the first production EMIDEC 2400 to the Ministry of Pensions is not known but is assumed to have been in late 1961 or early 1962 – (see the quotes below). According to the EMIDEC 1100 website http://www.emidec.org.uk/   "at least five EMIDEC 2400 systems were delivered". However, according to ref. 1 only three EMIDEC 2400's were ever sold.

The following extracts are from the Electric and Musical Industries Limited, *Report of the Directors, Chairman's Review and Statement of Accounts*, for the years ending 30th June 1961 and 1962.

For the year ending 30th June 1961: "Late in the financial year we delivered to the Ministry of Pensions the first part of the EMIDEC 2400 computer which ultimately will be carrying out the whole of the clerical work for the new State Graduated Pension Scheme. This, in fact, was a punched card to magnetic tape converter and has been used during the summer months to convert information from many millions of punched cards to magnetic tape in preparation for the main task due to begin next year".

For the year ending 30th June 1962: "In the year ended 30th June 1962 we delivered three of our very own large EMIDEC 2400 machines. The best known of these is the one which Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother inaugurated for the use of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance. This computer will maintain twenty-six million insurance accounts, record more than thirty million contribution returns each year, while making about eight million amendments and additions to personal data files". This installation was probably located at the DHSS/HMRC site at Benton Park View (aka Longbenton), Newcastle, where it was still operational in 1968/9.

More information on deliveries of the EMIDEC 2400 computer is currently being sought.

Reference.
1. M Campbell-Kelly, *ICL: a business and technical history.* Oxford University Press, 1989. ISBN: 0-19-853918-5.