

SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE FOR CIVIL DEFENCE WORKERS

New arrangements for subsistence allowances or food for the part-time unpaid members in the Civil Defence General Services, including Fire Guards of local authorities, are described in a circular which has been issued by the Ministry of Home Security.

The classes of Civil Defence workers affected are part-time unpaid members of the Civil Defence General Services in all local areas in England, Wales and Scotland, and part-time unpaid Fire Guards of local authorities in all areas to which the Fire Prevention (Business Premises) (No. 2) Order applies, in all areas to which Defence Regulation 27B applies and in other areas where the Regional Commissioner is satisfied that a Fire Guard is necessary and that the local authority concerned has established an appropriate organisation.

The new arrangements are designed to meet those cases where, by reason of the exigencies of the Civil Defence General Services, part-time unpaid workers of the classes described above are prevented from taking their meals at home during their tour of duty.

The following is the revised scale on which subsistence allowances will be payable, or in certain cases, food may be provided.

- Turns of duty of less than four hours -  
Either light refreshments to the value of 6d.  
or a subsistence allowance of 9d. whichever  
the local authority considers more appropriate;
- Four hours or more, but less than eight hours -  
Meal to the value of 1/- or, subject to the same  
conditions, a subsistence allowance of 1/6d;
- Eight hours or more, but not over twelve hours -  
Meals to the value of 2/-, or, subject to the  
same conditions, a subsistence allowance of 3/-;
- Over twelve hours but not over eighteen hours -  
A subsistence allowance of 4/6d;
- Over eighteen hours but not over twenty-four hours -  
A subsistence allowance of 6/-;

Any excess of 24 hours is to be treated as a new turn of duty.

Where personnel are on duty for twelve hours or less, a local authority may provide light refreshments or meals instead of subsistence allowances. Any such arrangement must apply generally in the sense that local authorities may not adopt one system for some section of their General Civil Defence Services, including Fire Guards, and the other for the remainder. Light refreshments and meals may be provided instead of money where for a particular depot or post the local authority has established adequate canteen arrangements.

The Minister of Home Security attaches great importance to the provision of canteens at which whole-time and part-time personnel can obtain meals and suitable light refreshments because these play an important part in maintaining the morale and stamina of personnel under conditions of strain and danger. Local authorities are urged to establish canteens if they have not already done so, and to ensure a high standard at existing canteens.