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Any communication on the subject of this letter should be addressed to—

THE SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY,
HORSEFERRY HOUSE,
THORNEY STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1.

and the following reference quoted :—



MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY,
HORSEFERRY HOUSE,
THORNEY STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1.

H.S.C.165/40

J.1.

3th July, 1940.

Sir,

Home Security Circular No.165/1940.

F.B. Circular No.94/1940.

Scottish Home Department Fire Brigades Division Circular No. L.125/40.

Medical Treatment of Civil Defence Volunteers.
for Injuries sustained on Duty.

1. I am directed by the Minister of Home Security to refer to paragraph 11 of the memorandum accompanying A.R.P. Department Circular No.313/1939, which indicated that civil defence volunteers would be eligible for free medical treatment in respect of war service injuries. Local authorities should ensure that all volunteers are kept acquainted with the arrangements for such treatment in their localities. The general position is as set out below.

2. Volunteers sustaining war service injuries (i.e. physical injuries, whether or not due to war operations, suffered by volunteers when on duty) are eligible for free treatment either in hospitals under the Emergency Hospital Scheme, (i.e. all general hospitals) or, in the case of minor injuries, in first aid posts. Any further treatment required after discharge from hospital, or after initial treatment at a first aid post, will ordinarily be provided at the out-patient departments of hospitals. Where, however, subsequent medical treatment is necessary which cannot be provided at a hospital or out-patient department, volunteers who are entitled to medical benefit under the National Health Insurance Scheme will be expected to avail themselves of that Scheme. Volunteers not so entitled will be eligible for free domiciliary treatment under arrangements made by the Ministry of Health and the Department of Health for Scotland and notified to local authorities. (Ministry of Health Circular 1952 dated 27th January, 1940 with which was enclosed Memorandum E.M.S. Gen. 303; D.H.S. Circular 34/1940, with which was enclosed D.H.S. Memorandum 3/1940).

The Clerk of the County Council,
The County Clerk,
The Town Clerk,
The Clerk of the District Council.

3. The arrangements for free domiciliary treatment are intended to supplement, and not to replace, the facilities for free treatment at emergency casualty hospitals. Free domiciliary treatment by a doctor will accordingly be provided only where the volunteer has received from a hospital an "Order for Treatment after Discharge" in the form approved for this purpose (Form E.M.S. 114; in Scotland Form D.T.C. 1).

4. Volunteers who would normally make their own arrangements for treatment (whether domiciliary or otherwise) and who so prefer will be free to continue to do so; but in view of the facilities referred to above, no part of any expenditure so incurred can ordinarily be recognised as a charge against public funds. It should be made clear to all volunteers that claims in respect of such expenditure can be entertained only in exceptional circumstances - e.g. where it can be shewn that it was incurred on account of necessary initial treatment which it was not practicable on account of urgency or distance to obtain at a hospital or otherwise as outlined in the preceding paragraphs. In any such case where the local authority is satisfied with the bona fides of the claim and that the treatment was necessary, particulars of the claim should be forwarded by the authority to the Ministry of Health, or to the Department of Health for Scotland as the case may be, along with a statement signed by the Clerk to the authority, to the effect that the injury was sustained in the course of duty.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

H. C. Emmerson.

Issued to all general and fire scheme-making authorities in England, Wales and Scotland.

Copies sent for information to all other local authorities and to Chief Officers of Police in England, Wales and Scotland, to Chief Officers of Fire Brigades in England and Wales, and to Firemasters in Scotland.

Gen.194/3.