

POLICE NEGOTIATING BOARD

Secretary: Mr J R Williams
Office of Manpower Economics
22 Kingsway
London WC2B 6JY

AGREEMENT REACHED IN STANDING COMMITTEE D

1. At the meeting of Committee D on 16 March 1988 agreement was reached to give guidance on the application of essential and casual user rates of motor vehicle allowances provided for in Regulations. Details are set out in the attached memorandum, and take effect from 1 April 1988.
2. The Secretaries of State for the Home Departments have approved the agreement, which requires no amendment to Regulations. Under the procedure set out in Home Office Circular No. 33/1983 and Scottish Home and Health Department Circular No. 3/1983, this circular provides authority* to implement this agreement.
3. Any inquiries should be addressed to Mr J R Williams at the Office of Manpower Economics (01-405 5944, Ext 374) or to the Official Side Secretary (01--235 6081) or the Staff Side Secretary (01-399 2224). Inquiries to the Independent Secretariat relating to the interpretation of this circular should where possible be sent in writing.

11 April 1988

*PNB circulars form a single numerical series. Those which in themselves provide authority to implement an agreement carry the serial number alone, while those which are purely advisory are designated as such after the serial number.

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The following agreement of Committee D has received the approval of the Secretary of State.

Motor vehicle allowances

1. Where an officer is designated as an essential or casual user, he receives the essential or casual user rate for authorised journeys undertaken in the course of his normal duties.
2. Where an officer (whether a designated user or not) chooses for his own reasons to use his car for a journey which the chief constable confirms could and should otherwise be undertaken by public transport, then the officer should be reimbursed the cost of the public transport fare only.
3. Where an officer's normal duties do not make the availability of a car either essential or desirable, but on specific occasions the chief constable is prepared to sanction the use of the officer's own car in the interests of the efficiency of the service, then the officer should receive the casual user rate of allowance for the journey concerned.
4. Police forces are reminded that there is an onus on management to pay car allowances only where necessary, and accordingly they should take steps:
 - (i) to designate officers as essential or casual users only where it is deemed strictly to be 'essential' or 'desirable';
 - (ii) to ensure that an officer is authorised to use his car only if there is no force car available, or if the officer is unable to share the car of another officer undertaking the same journey; and
 - (iii) to review at regular intervals the designation of essential and casual users with the object of establishing whether that status is still required.