



SUPPLEMENT TO

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SCHEME T2/1981

NOTE: The Scheme which follows this note has been made under section 28 of the Post Office Act 1969 and will come into operation on 1st April 1981 when it will replace all previous Inland and International Telegram Schemes.

The new Scheme consolidates with amendments and omissions the provisions of previous Telegram Schemes and introduces increases in the charges for most telegrams. Apart from alterations in most charges, the principal changes made by the Scheme are: (1) the replacement of separate Inland and International Telegram Schemes by a single Scheme (2) the omission of provisions relating to services or facilities which are no longer provided and provisions which are otherwise no longer necessary (3) the insertion of Schedules specifying charges and rates of charge in respect of most inland and international telegrams.

(This note is not part of the Scheme).

THE POST OFFICE TELEGRAM SCHEME 1981

*Made 20th March 1981*

*Coming into Operation 1st April 1981*

ARRANGEMENT OF PARAGRAPHS

1. Commencement, citation and extent
2. Revocation and transitional provisions
3. Interpretation
4. Application
5. Construction
6. Services and facilities
7. Identity
8. Addresses
9. Acceptance and delivery
10. Payment of charges
11. Charges—General
12. Value Added Tax

13. Complaints Panel
14. Reduction of charges
15. Remission of charges

SCHEDULE 1. Schemes revoked by the introduction of this Scheme.

SCHEDULE 2. Charges for the transmission of telegrams to places in the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands.

SCHEDULE 3. Charges for the transmission of telegrams to the Republic of Ireland.

SCHEDULE 4. Charges for the transmission of telegrams to places outside the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands and the Republic of Ireland.

SCHEDULE 5. Charges for services and facilities provided in connection with telegrams.

The Post Office, by virtue of the powers conferred upon it by section 28 of, and Paragraph 3 (1) of Schedule 9 to, the Post Office Act 1969, and of all other powers enabling it in this behalf, hereby makes the following Scheme:—

#### Commencement, citation and extent

1.—(1) This Scheme shall come into operation on the 1st April 1981 and may be cited as the Post Office Telegram Scheme 1981.

(2) This Scheme shall extend to the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man.

#### Revocation and transitional provisions

2.—(1) The Schemes specified in Schedule 1 to this Scheme are hereby revoked.

(2) In the case of any telegram service for which no charge is specified in this Scheme but for which a charge fixed by the Post Office under any Scheme hereby revoked is in force immediately before this Scheme comes into operation, the charge so fixed shall continue in force as if it had been fixed under this Scheme.

#### Interpretation

3.—(1) In this Scheme, except so far as the contrary is provided or the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them:

“ Administration ” means any government department, service, establishment, or agency responsible for discharging the obligations undertaken in the International Telecommunication Convention and the Regulations annexed thereto;

“ telegram ” means any form of message accepted for transmission by means of the telegram service;

“ telegram service ” means a public telecommunication service whereby messages tendered in acceptable form (whether in written form or by telephone or otherwise), in order that they may be dealt with as telegrams are transmitted and delivered as telegrams (whether in written form or by telephone or otherwise);

“ word ” in relation to a rate of charge for the transmission of a telegram includes any letter, figure, or other symbol or any combination thereof which the Post Office may determine in accordance with paragraph 11 (3) shall be reckoned as a chargeable word;

(2) Any reference in this Scheme to, or to any provision of, any enactment, Convention or Scheme shall be construed, unless the context otherwise requires, as a reference to such enactment, Convention or Scheme or such provision thereof, as amended, re-enacted or replaced, whether before or after the commencement of this Scheme, by any subsequent enactment, Convention or Scheme.

(3) The Interpretation Act 1978 applies for the interpretation of this Scheme as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament and as if this Scheme and the Schemes hereby revoked were Acts of Parliament.

(4) Any reference in any regulations or Scheme to the provisions of any regulations or Scheme revoked by this Scheme shall be construed, unless the context otherwise requires, as a reference to the corresponding provisions of this Scheme.

#### Application

4. This Scheme applies to telegrams and to services and facilities in relation thereto (except so far as the contrary is expressly provided or the context otherwise requires) other than those which are provided under an agreement constituting a contract or under the provisions of any other Scheme relating to telecommunications made by the Post Office under Section 28 of the Post Office Act 1969.

**Construction**

5. Nothing contained in or done under this Scheme, or done under or pursuant to any term or condition contained in or determined under this Scheme, and no request for a service or facility for which the charges, terms or conditions are specified in or are fixed or determined by or under this Scheme, shall constitute or lead to the formation of a contract between the Post Office and any other person; and nothing contained in or done under this Scheme shall be construed as implying that the Post Office is under any obligation to provide telegram service for any person.

**Services and facilities**

6. All telegram services and facilities referred to in this Scheme may be provided to and from such places, at such times, during such periods and in such circumstances as the Post Office may from time to time determine and, in the case of international telegrams, subject to such limitations as may be imposed by the arrangements for transmission and delivery of telegrams in force in the country to which the telegram is addressed.

**Identity**

7. The sender or the addressee of a telegram shall, if the Post Office so requires, furnish evidence of his identity in such form as the Post Office may require.

**Addresses**

8. The address of a telegram shall contain all the particulars necessary to ensure delivery of the telegram without enquiry.

**Acceptance and delivery**

9.—(1) Telegrams, particular classes of telegrams, or any particular telegram may be accepted for transmission on such days and at such times and in such manner and to such places as the Post Office may determine.

(2) Telegrams, particular classes of telegram or any particular telegram may be delivered by the Post Office on such days, at such times and by such means as it may determine.

(3) The Post Office may refuse or stop any telegram which:

(a) in its opinion it would be impracticable to transmit or deliver;

(b) does not comply with any applicable provision of this Scheme;

(c) would involve the Post Office in a breach of its obligations to other Administrations under international arrangements relating to telegrams;

(d) is a telegram in respect of which any charge which should have been pre-paid has not been so paid.

**Payment of Charges**

10.—(1) All charges for telegrams or services and facilities in relation thereto shall be payable by such person, at such times, in such places and in such manner as the Post Office may from time to time determine.

(2) Charges for radiotelegrams sent from a station for wireless telegraphy on board a ship or aircraft licenced or required to be licenced in that behalf under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 shall be payable by such person and in such manner as may be provided in the Post Office Telecommunication Scheme from time to time in force under Section 28 of the Post Office Act 1969.

**Charges—General**

11.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Scheme there shall be charged and paid for a telegram the total of the amount or amounts (including an amount or amounts of additional charges) appropriate to that telegram which are specified in, or calculated in accordance with the rate or rates specified in Schedule 2 (where the telegram is accepted for transmission to a place in the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands), Schedule 3 (where the telegram is accepted for transmission to a place in the Republic of Ireland) or Schedule 4 (where the telegram is accepted for transmission to a place which is not a place in the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands or the Republic of Ireland):

Provided that where no amount or rate appropriate to a particular telegram is specified in the said Schedules there shall be charged and paid for the transmission of that telegram such charge as the Post Office may fix.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Scheme, there shall be charged and paid for the provision of a service or facility in relation to any telegram to which this Scheme applies the amount or amounts appropriate to that service or facility which are specified in, or calculated in accordance with a rate or rates specified in Schedule 5:

Provided that where no amount or rate appropriate to a particular service or facility is specified in the said Schedule there shall be charged and paid for the provision of that service or facility such charge as the Post Office may fix.

(3) For the purpose of calculating the amount or amounts payable in respect of the transmission of a telegram the chargeable number of words shall be reckoned in such manner as may be determined by the Post Office.

(4) Telegrams to which Schedule 4 applies shall be charged at different rates according to the charge band in which the country of destination falls. These charge bands shall be such as the Post Office may fix.

**Value Added Tax**

12.—(1) This paragraph applies to every charge in the case of which an amount is specified in or fixed under the provisions of this Scheme and to every charge which under or by virtue of this Scheme falls to be calculated by reference to a rate or rates so specified or fixed, being (in either case) a charge for a supply on which value added tax is chargeable.

(2) In the case of every charge to which this paragraph applies there shall be added to the amount so specified or fixed or so calculated (hereinafter called "the tax exclusive amount") such sum as will increase the tax exclusive amount to the tax inclusive amount mentioned in sub-paragraph (3).

(3) The tax inclusive amount of every charge to which this paragraph applies is such amount as after the deduction therefrom of value added tax chargeable on the supply to which it relates, is equal to the tax exclusive amount, which, but for this paragraph would be charged and payable under this Scheme.

**Complaints Panel**

13.—(1) The Post Office may make arrangements whereby a user of the telegram service who has complained to the Post Office in respect of any charge made for a telegram and who is dissatisfied with the way in which his complaint has been dealt with by the Post Office may submit the complaint to a complaints panel (the members of which are not members, servants or agents of the Post Office) so that a member of the panel may consider the complaint and submit by way of advice to the Post Office a recommendation as to how the complaint should be dealt with.

(2) Such arrangements may provide for other procedural matters and for time limits within which any procedural steps are to be taken.

(3) The panel's secretariat will require the complainant:

(a) to complete and submit in such form as the secretariat thinks fit a full statement of the facts and grounds of the complaint, and where appropriate the amount of reimbursement or reduction in charges sought;

(b) to pay a fee of—

£1 where the amount sought does not exceed £10

£5 where the amount sought exceeds £10 but does not exceed £50

£10 where the amount sought exceeds £50

but so that any fee paid will be refundable—

(i) in a case where the panel member has submitted a recommendation in the complainant's favour; or

(ii) in any other case in which the panel member expressly recommends refund.

(c) to submit all relevant evidence in the form of written statements.

(4) The panel member shall not entertain any complaint which relates to a service or facility provided pursuant to any contract between the Post Office and any person.

(5) The panel member shall not act or proceed further with a complaint where legal proceedings have been taken unless both the Post Office and the complainant otherwise agree.

(6) A copy of the recommendation of the panel member shall in every case be sent by post to the complainant. The recommendation, being advisory only, will not create or affect any legal rights and liabilities of the complainant and the Post Office.

**Reduction of charges**

14. All charges payable under this Scheme may be reduced at such times and during such periods as the Post Office may determine.

**Remission of charges**

15. The Post Office may remit in whole or in part any charge or sum payable or paid by virtue of this Scheme.

**Paragraph 2****SCHEDULE 1****SCHEMES REVOKED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS SCHEME**

1. The Post Office Inland Telegram Scheme 1971 (Post Office Scheme T3/1971)
2. The Post Office Inland Telegram Amendment (No. 1) Scheme 1972 (Post Office Scheme T5/1972)
3. The Post Office Inland Telegram Amendment (No. 2A) Scheme 1973 (Post Office Scheme T3A/1973)
4. The Post Office Inland Telegram Amendment (No. 3) Scheme 1973 (Post Office Scheme T9/1973)
5. The Post Office Inland Telegram Amendment (No. 4) Scheme 1974 (Post Office Scheme T3/1974)

6. The Post Office Inland Telegram Amendment (No. 5) Scheme 1975 (Post Office Scheme T2/1975)
7. The Post Office Inland Telegram Amendment (No. 6) Scheme 1975 (Post Office Scheme T6/1975)
8. The Post Office Inland Telegram Amendment (No. 7) Scheme 1980 (Post Office Scheme T2/1980)
9. The Post Office Inland Telegram Amendment (No. 8) Scheme 1980 (Post Office Scheme T7/1980)
10. The Post Office International Telegram Scheme 1973 (Post Office Scheme T10/1973)
11. The Post Office International Telegram Amendment (No. 1) Scheme 1974 (Post Office Scheme T6/1974)
12. The Post Office International Press Telegram Scheme 1973 (Post Office Scheme T11/1973)

Paragraphs 10 & 11

SCHEDULE 2

**CHARGES FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF TELEGRAMS TO PLACES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE ISLE OF MAN OR THE CHANNEL ISLANDS**  
(exclusive of Value Added Tax)

	£
1. Ordinary telegram	
(a) fixed charge ... ..	1.50
plus	
(b) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... ..	0.15
2. Overnight telegram	
(a) fixed charge ... ..	0.75
plus	
(b) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... ..	0.07½
3. Greetings telegram	
(a) fixed charge ... ..	2.00
plus	
(b) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... ..	0.15

Paragraphs 10 & 11

SCHEDULE 3

**CHARGES FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF TELEGRAMS TO PLACES IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**  
(exclusive of Value Added Tax)

	£
Ordinary telegram	
(a) fixed charge ... ..	1.50
plus	
(b) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... ..	0.15

NOTE: Overnight and Greetings telegrams are not available to the Republic of Ireland.

Paragraphs 10 & 11

SCHEDULE 4

**CHARGES FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF TELEGRAMS TO PLACES OUTSIDE THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE ISLE OF MAN, THE CHANNEL ISLANDS AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**  
(exclusive of Value Added Tax)

1. Ordinary telegram	
(a) to places in charge bands 1-4:	£
(i) fixed charge ... ..	1.50
plus	
(ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... ..	0.20
(b) to places in charge band 5:	
(i) fixed charge ... ..	1.50
plus	
(ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... ..	0.25
2. Urgent telegram	
(a) to places in charge bands 1-4:	
(i) fixed charge ... ..	3.00
plus	
(ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... ..	0.40
(b) to places in charge band 5:	
(i) fixed charge ... ..	3.00
plus	
(ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... ..	0.50

3. Letter telegram. A telegram accepted for transmission at a reduced rate on condition that transmission or delivery of it may be deferred and that delivery may be by post instead of telegraph.
- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| (a) to places in charge bands 1-4:   | £     |
| (i) fixed charge ... ..  | 1.50  |
| plus   |       |
| (ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ...<br>(subject to a minimum charge as for 22 words) | 0.10  |
| (b) to places in charge band 5:  |       |
| (i) fixed charge ... ..  | 1.50  |
| plus   |       |
| (ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ...<br>(subject to a minimum charge as for 22 words) | 0.12½ |
4. Government telegram
- |   |      |
|---|------|
| (a) to places in charge bands 1-4:                |      |
| (i) fixed charge ... ..                           | 1.50 |
| plus  |      |
| (ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... | 0.20 |
| (b) to places in charge band 5:                   |      |
| (i) fixed charge ... ..                           | 1.50 |
| plus  |      |
| (ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... | 0.25 |
5. Commonwealth Social telegram. A telegram accepted for transmission at a reduced rate on condition that it consists solely of greetings, family news or matters relating to non-commercial personal affairs and accepted as such for transmission to certain territories and places prescribed by the Post Office on the condition that it may be deferred in transmission or delivery or both and that it may be delivered by post instead of telegraph, and that it is written in plain language only.
- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| (a) to places in charge bands 1-4:                |       |
| (i) fixed charge ... ..                           | 1.50  |
| plus  |       |
| (ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... | 0.10  |
| (b) to places in charge band 5:                   |       |
| (i) fixed charge ... ..                           | 1.50  |
| plus  |       |
| (ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... | 0.12½ |
6. Safety of Life telegram
- |   |      |
|---|------|
| (a) to places in charge bands 1-4:                |      |
| (i) fixed charge ... ..                           | 1.50 |
| plus  |      |
| (ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... | 0.20 |
| (b) to places in charge band 5:                   |      |
| (i) fixed charge ... ..                           | 1.50 |
| plus  |      |
| (ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... | 0.25 |
7. Meteorological telegram
- |   |      |
|---|------|
| (a) to places in charge bands 1-4:                |      |
| (i) fixed charge .....                            | 1.50 |
| plus  |      |
| (ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... | 0.20 |
| (b) to places in charge band 5:                   |      |
| (i) fixed charge ... ..                           | 1.50 |
| plus  |      |
| (ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... | 0.25 |
8. Red Cross telegram
- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| (a) to places in charge bands 1-4:                |       |
| (i) fixed charge ... ..                           | 1.50  |
| plus  |       |
| (ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... | 0.05  |
| (b) to places in charge band 5:                   |       |
| (i) fixed charge ... ..                           | 1.50  |
| plus  |       |
| (ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... | 0.06½ |

9. Urgent Red Cross telegram		
(a) to places in charge bands 1-4:		£
(i) fixed charge ... ..		3.00
plus		
(ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... ..		0.20
(b) to places in charge band 5:		
(i) fixed charge ... ..		3.00
plus		
(ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... ..		0.25
10. Paid Service telegram		
(a) to places in charge bands 1-4:		
(i) fixed charge ... ..		1.50
plus		
(ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... ..		0.20
(b) to places in charge band 5:		
(i) fixed charge ... ..		1.50
plus		
(ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... ..		0.25
11. Government Letter telegram		
(a) to places in charge bands 1-4:		
(i) fixed charge ... ..		1.50
plus		
(ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... ..		0.10
(b) to places in charge band 5:		
(i) fixed charge ... ..		1.50
plus		
(ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... ..		0.12½
12. Press telegram		
(a) to places in charge bands 1-4:		
(i) fixed charge ... ..		1.50
plus		
(ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... ..		0.10
(b) to places in charge band 5:		
(i) fixed charge ... ..		1.50
plus		
(ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... ..		0.12½
13. Urgent Press telegram		
(a) to places in charge bands 1-4:		
(i) fixed charge ... ..		3.00
plus		
(ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... ..		0.20
(b) to places in charge band 5:		
(i) fixed charge ... ..		3.00
plus		
(ii) for each chargeable word in the telegram ... ..		0.25

Paragraph 11(2).

SCHEDULE 5

**CHARGES FOR SERVICES AND FACILITIES PROVIDED IN CONNECTION WITH TELEGRAMS**  
(exclusive of Value Added Tax)

PART I

*Services and facilities provided in respect of telegrams (except radiotelegrams)*

1. Registered Telegraphic Address ... .. £10 per annum.

2. Certified copies ... .. £1 for each 50 chargeable words of telegram plus such charge as the Post Office may fix in respect of the search for the telegram to be copied.

## PART II

*Services and facilities provided in respect of telegrams which originate in and are delivered to a place within the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands*

1. Telegram remittances ... .. A fixed charge of £3 for each telegram and £0.15 for each chargeable word in the telegram.
2. Withdrawals from National Savings Bank accounts by telegram ... £3 for each telegram sent to or from the National Savings Bank in connection with the transaction.

## PART III

*Services and facilities provided in respect of telegrams (except radiotelegrams) for delivery at a place outside the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands or the Republic of Ireland.*

1. Notice of delivery ... .. A charge as for a 7 word telegram at the rate appropriate to the telegram to which the notice of delivery relates.
2. De Luxe surcharge: payable for delivery of an Ordinary, Letter or Commonwealth Social telegram on an ornamental form suitable for happy occasions ... .. £0.50 for each such telegram.

Dated the 20th day of March 1981.

Signed on behalf of the Post Office by *Geoffrey J. Jones* (a person authorised by the Post Office to act in that behalf).

LONDON

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