
Appendix Three

Eligibility for Supplementary Benefit

The purpose of this schedule¹ is to ascertain those who would be eligible for supplementary benefit and are not receiving it. It does not attempt to identify those who are receiving less than the full scale because they are wage-stopped or have unreasonably high rents. Wage-stopped families account for only about 2 households per 1,000 and families with unreasonably high rents only 0.5 per 1,000 (of course the schedule applies to 1968-9).

In standardizing the discretionary procedures of the Supplementary Benefits Commission and simplifying some of the provisions, use of this schedule will *overstate* the true number of income units eligible for benefit: (a) in so far as income is under-reported; and (b) in so far as no allowance is made for unreasonably high rents - which affects 2 per cent of applicants. But it will *understate* it for the following reasons:

1. We take no account of eligibility for extra allowances for diet, fuel and so on.
2. The special higher rates of benefit available to the blind, etc. are not allowed for. These rates apply to the registered blind and we have not attempted to ascertain in the questionnaire who is *registered* blind.
3. The repairs and insurance allowance for owner-occupiers varies with rateable value from a minimum of £10 per annum. We have used a standard allowance of 20p a week (approximating to £10 per annum) for *all* owner-occupiers.
4. In valuing houses, the Supplementary Benefits Commission deducts 10 per cent from the district valuers' valuation. In so far as our valuations are correct, we are in this respect over-valuing for SB C purposes. As valuations may tend to be too low, it seems appropriate not to deduct the 10 per cent.
5. In certain rare circumstances where the householder has a low income or there are dependants not at work, the attributable rent may be more favourable to the applicant than allowed for in our procedure.
6. We give no allowance for the excess of war or industrial injury, or widows' pensions over standard national insurance widows' pensions.

We have introduced a standard allowance of 25p for hire purchase. In practice, discretion is exercised depending on whether or not the article is an 'essential', for example, a cooking stove or bed, rather than a 'luxury', for example, a television.

In one respect, our assessment will not be accurate because we simply did not collect the data in the requisite form. Income from sub-tenants (as distinct from lodgers and boarders) at

¹ We are grateful to headquarters officers of the Supplementary Benefits Commission for commenting in great detail on the schedule before it was used. The officers are, of course, in no way responsible for any errors which remain, or for the application of the schedule.

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the same address may not be obtained (if picked up under 'other' income it will not be clearly identified). Moreover, services provided to sub-tenants are not checked. Applicants who have sub-tenants are therefore allowed the following weekly sums:

Wear and tear	£0.15
If light provided	£0.12½
If heat provided	£0.40
If accommodation furnished	£0.20

Schedule of Assessment of Eligibility for Supplementary Benefit¹

For use with all income units in which the head (man in the case of a married couple) meets one of the following sets of criteria and was not drawing supplementary benefit in previous week, p. 18, Q. 15 (06).

(a) Head, man under 65

Head, woman under 60, no dependent children in income unit,

and unemployed p. 6, Q. 6 (3/32/2)
or sick or injured (3/32/3)

(b) Head, man 65 or over

woman 60 or over
woman under 60 but dependent children
man (under 65) or woman (under 60)

disabled or handicapped p. 6, Q. 6 (3/32/4) and under 60/65

In each case under (b) worked less than 30 hours last week p. 6, Q. 5 (3/29-30)

Add together Income

Earnings last week (1) Head of household

(Change from month p. 15, Q. 1 Main occupation
to week if necessary) (6/13-17 or
7/12-15)

p. 18, Q. 14 Casual
(7/27-31)

(2) Wife

Main occupation
p. 15, Q. 1 (6/13-17) or
(7/12-15)

p. 18, Q. 14 Casual
(7/27-31)

Social Security and Maintenance Payments

(last week) (3) Widow's pension or allowance
p. 18, Q. 15 (7/36-37/03)

(4) Disability pension
p. 18, Q. 15 (7/36-37/08 or 09)

(4) Other except codes 11 and 12
p. 18, Q. 15 (lump sum grants)

(5a) Maintenance payments reported

¹ Note that the allowances were raised in October 1968. Adjustments were made in working out whether households interviewed subsequently were eligible for supplementary benefit.

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	in Q. 20, p. 20 (10/53-56)
<i>Other income</i>	(6) Employers' pension
	p. 19, Q. 19 (10/44-7)
(Change from month to week where necessary)	(7) Other income <i>excluding</i> maintenance payments
	p. 20, Q. 20 (10/53-56)	.....
	(8) Sick pay <i>if sick last week only</i>	.....
	p. 16, Q. 10 (6/72-75)	.....
Income from capital. Add together value of assets		
p. 24, Q. 2	11/42-47	
Q.3	11/54-58	
Q.4	11/65-69	
Q.5	11/71-75	
Q.9	12/31-35	
Deduct		
Q.13	12/54-58	
Q.14	12/60-62	
Q.15	12/63-66	
Total value of assets	_____	
Deduct	£300	
Assessable Assets	_____	
	(9) Count as income 5p per complete	
	£25 up to £500	.....
	12½p per complete	
	£25 on remainder	.....
	Total assessable income	_____
<i>Income allowed for SBC purposes</i>		
	(10) Up to £1 for category (a) and up to £2 from (1) above if	
	category (b)	.....
	(11) Up to £2 from (2) above	.....
	(12) Up to total of £1 from (6), (7), (8), (9)	.....
	(13) Up to a total of £2 from (4)	.....
	Where entry under (3) allow 37½p for a first and second	
	dependent child in income unit and 27½p for each subse-	
	quent child in income unit <i>providing the entry in this</i>	
	<i>heading and (12) combined do not exceed £2</i>	
	(14) Up to 25p for hire purchase	
	(p. 26, Q. 12)	.....
	(15) Housing cost	
	(a) Where head of income unit <i>not responsible</i>	
	<i>for rent</i> (10/77/5, e.g. earning child) or	
	<i>living in rent-free accommodation</i> (p. 21, Q.	

24, 10/77/4) allow 50p. But in the case of rent-free accommodation the proportion of the 50p which can be allowed is limited by the extent to which (i) in the case of those providing services (p. 23, Q. 29, 2/55/0 or 2) the amount allowed under (10) is less than £1 or £2 if appropriate (ii) in the case of those not providing services (p. 23, Q. 29, 2/55/7, 1, 3, 4) the amount allowed under (12) is less than £1

(b) If only one income unit in household (i) if head of income unit is owner-occupier (p. 21, Q. 24, 10/77/X or Y). Allow weekly shares of ground rent, rates, water rates (p. 21, Q. 25, b, c, and d) plus *interest* on mortgage (Q. 25 H) plus 20p repairs and insurance allowance. (ii) If head of income unit pays rent allow rent and rates *less* 10p if lighting provided (p. 22, Q. 26 e) and *less* 62½p if centrally heated (p. 2, Q. 9, 1/37/5). But if meals provided allow total rent paid and adjust under (16) below.

(c) If more than one income unit in household and this income unit pays rent, calculate housing cost as in (b) (i) above. Count members of household excluding tenants but including boarders and members of family but count children under 16 as ½. Allot to income unit its proportionate share of housing cost if head of unit pays rent. For owner-occupier divide weekly share of rates plus interest: only add 20p if householder is applying for SB

TOTAL

(16) Personal allowances		
If a boarder single (Commercial)	1.37½	.....
If a boarder married couple	2.30	.....
If a single householder (16 or over) responsible for rent, rates, etc.	4.30	.....
Married couple (responsible for rent or not)	7.05
If <i>not</i> a householder and <i>not</i> a boarder (commercial) aged 21 or over	3.55

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18-20	2.90
16-17	2.50
Child 11-15	1.85
5-10	1.50
Under 5	1.25
Special addition if person over pensionable age allow extra	0.45
If head of income unit over 65 or 60 if a woman and not a boarder add 0.45 less any sum allowed under (14) above		.....

Total income allowed

If Income Allowed exceeds Assessable Income the income unit would be eligible for supplementary benefit

Summary

	Income allowed	.....
<i>Subtract</i>	Assessable income	.....

delete one	{ plus	
	{ minus	
