Appendix Three
Eligibility for Supplementary Benefit

The purpose of this schedule\(^1\) 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 overstated 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 understated 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

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\(^1\) 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.
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wear and tear</td>
<td>£0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If light provided</td>
<td>£0.12½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If heat provided</td>
<td>£0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If accommodation furnished</td>
<td>£0.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Schedule of Assessment of Eligibility for Supplementary Benefit**

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
   - or sick or injured

(b) Head, man 65 or over or woman 60 or over
   - woman under 60 but dependent children man (under 65) or woman (under 60) disabled or handicapped

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 (Main occupation)
  - (Change from month to week if necessary)
  - p. 15, Q.1 (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

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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.
APPENDIX THREE: ELIGIBILITY FOR SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT 961

Other income

(6) Employers’ pension

(7) Other income excluding maintenance payments

(8) Sick pay if sick last week only

Other income (6)

Employers’ pension

p. 19, Q. 19 (10/44-7)

p. 20, Q. 20 (10/53-56)

p. 16, Q. 10 (6/72-75)

Change from month to week (7)

Other income excluding maintenance payments

where necessary

p. 20, Q. 20 (10/53-56)

p. 19, Q. 19 (10/44-7)

Where entry under (3) allow 37½p for a first and second dependent child in income unit and 27½p for each subsequent child in income unit providing the entry in this heading and (12) combined do not exceed £2

Income from capital. Add together value of assets

p. 24, Q. 2

Q.3

Q.4

Q.5

Q.9

11/42-47

11/54-58

11/65-69

12/31-35

11/71-75

12/60-62

12/63-66

Deduct

Q.13

Q.14

Q.15

12/54-58

12/60-62

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

Income allowed for SBC purposes

(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 subsequent child in income unit providing the entry in this heading and (12) combined do not exceed £2

(14) Up to 25p for hire purchase

(p. 26, Q. 12)

(15) Housing cost

(a) Where head of income unit not responsible for rent (10/77/5, e.g. earning child) or living in rent-free accommodation (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

(16) Personal allowances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If a boarder single (Commercial)</td>
<td>1.37½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a boarder married couple</td>
<td>2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a single householder (16 or over) responsible for rent, rates, etc.</td>
<td>4.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married couple (responsible for rent or not)</td>
<td>7.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If not a householder and not a boarder (commercial) aged 21 or over</td>
<td>3.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age Group</td>
<td>Allowance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-20</td>
<td>2.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-17</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child 11-15</td>
<td>1.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special addition if person over pensionable age allow extra</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total income allowed**

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

**Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Income allowed</th>
<th>Assessable income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subtract</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>delete one</td>
<td>plus</td>
<td>minus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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