

Sec. 87058/1948. **GENERAL ORDER No. 18/1950**

City Gate House,
Finsbury Square,
London, E.C.2.

31st July, 1950.

Women Search Officers.

1. A small number of full-time Women Search Officers are employed at certain ports and airports to assist Waterguard Officers in the detection of smuggling of goods or currency. Under present arrangements they are selected from suitable Women Clerical Officers (General and Departmental Classes) of not less than 25 years of age.

2. Officers seconded for this duty retain their conditions of service as members of the Clerical Classes. When they are required to give attendance on week-days beyond their liability as members of the Clerical Classes, or on Sundays or Public Holidays, the overtime arrangements for Departmental Clerical Officers apply (see Establishment Instructions, Volume 2, Part IV).

In addition a temporary non-pensionable allowance of £25 per annum is paid.

3. While hours of duty will, generally, be schemed for 8 hours between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. daily, attendances outside those hours may be required at certain places.

4. Suitable uniform clothing is provided and before posting, Women Search Officers receive a short course of instruction at the Waterguard Training Centre, London.

5. Removals, where necessary, are subject to long-term detached duty arrangements under General Order 1/1943.

6. Seconded officers have the right, or may be required at the discretion of the Board, to return to their former clerical duties at any time.

7. Women Search Officers are eligible to qualify for, and receive, language allowances under the same conditions as Waterguard Officers. They are also entitled to be paid seizure rewards, and when acting

as members of a crew their share is on the same scale as for Assistant Preventive Officers.

8. The main function of Women Search Officers is to assist in combating smuggling of currency and valuables on the person of female passengers, stewardesses, hostesses, etc., as well as in their quarters on board. When not employed on search work they may give assistance on other duties in Waterguard offices, and, at the discretion and under the direction of a Preventive Officer, they may be employed on the physical examination of passengers' baggage. Women Search Officers should not be employed on the preliminary interrogation of passengers or the clearance of baggage, nor should they grant the allowance concessions, assess or accept duty and purchase tax, or deal with offences.

9. It should be generally understood that the employment of Women Search Officers is an additional preventive measure and does not imply any considerable intensification of the search of female passengers. No one should be searched unless reasonable suspicion exists of an attempt to smuggle and any person whom it is proposed to search should first be informed of her right to be taken before a Magistrate, or the Collector or other superior officer of Customs. The decision to search should be given in all cases by the Chief Preventive Officer, or in his absence the senior Preventive Officer present.

The terms of this Order have been agreed with representatives of the Staff Side of the Departmental Whitley Council.

By Order of the Board,

A. D. OWEN.

A. W. TAYLOR.