

Sec. 4659/1947

PART 6. OMNIBUS WEEKLY ORDER 40/1947

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

2nd October, 1947.

Note.—A copy of this Order is to be issued to every Coast Preventive Man. Extra copies to meet this special distribution may be obtained from the Clerk-in-Charge, Correspondence Room.

Use of Motor Cycles in Coast Preventive Stations.

1. To conserve manpower and improve the mobility and efficiency of coastal patrols the Board have decided to approve the use of motor cycles, as an experimental measure, in particular areas where it is considered that they can be used with special advantage. A limited number of official machines will be provided for the use of Coast Preventive Men in such selected areas where privately owned machines are not available. Official machines will be allocated only to men who are willing, fit and competent to drive machines of the types supplied. No Coast Preventive Man who is unwilling or unfit to do so will be expected to use a motor cycle.

2. It is not anticipated that the introduction of motor cycles and the consequential re-arrangement of the local patrol system in these selected areas will result in the displacement of existing personnel. If during the trial period a Coast Preventive Man concerned should become unable or unwilling to continue to drive a motor cycle, steps will be taken to re-arrange the patrol schemes and staffing arrangements, so far as practicable, to avoid disturbance. The question of setting up permanent schemes for motor cycle C.P.M. Stations will be reviewed later in the light of experience gained in the trials.

3. Waterguard Superintendents will be consulted by the Inspector General of Waterguard before machines are allocated in individual cases. In reporting they should consider whether the use of a motor cycle would improve the efficient patrolling of a station, possibly by a re-arrangement of patrols, or the absorption of an adjacent station, or the provision, where desirable, of overlapping guards. Similarly when a vacancy arises in a Coast Preventive Station, supervising Officers should consider whether the local circumstances fully justify the use of a motor cycle in that station or a neighbouring station.

The first official machines have already been supplied on trial in certain stations in the Harwich Division and it is expected that others will follow as soon as they become available. Instructions regarding inspection, maintenance and use will be issued to each Coast Preventive Man and supervising officer concerned.

4. Pending further experience of this scheme the Board are also prepared, in suitable selected areas, to approve the use of privately owned motor cycles or auto-cycles for official patrols, and to pay the regulated mileage rates specified in paragraph 6 of General Order 2/1947, subject to the conditions of that Order and to Omnibus Weekly Order 39/47, Part 2. Applications for authority to use a privately owned machine should be submitted through the Waterguard Superintendent who should report on the application having regard to the considerations outlined in paragraph 3 above.

Coast Preventive Men are, however, advised not to take steps to purchase machines in consequence of this announcement and they should understand that the Board can accept no responsibility for any expense incurred by them in this connection.

When the use of a privately owned motor cycle is authorised, garaging, cleaning and repairs will be at the expense of the Coast Preventive Man concerned.

5. In the case of a Coast Preventive Man who, though willing to use an official motor cycle, is unqualified to drive, arrangements may be made in suitable cases for him to receive driving lessons free of cost.

6. The arrangements for inspection and servicing officially provided motor cycles will be a Departmental concern, but Coast Preventive Men using these machines will be expected to keep them clean. To ensure the safe custody and care of official motor cycles it is generally preferable for each Coast Preventive Man to garage his machine at home where this is practicable, and in such cases the Board will pay the Coast Preventive Men a rental of 2s. 0d. per week. In other cases, subject to the approval of the Waterguard Superintendent, the Board will be prepared to authorise outside garaging at a reasonable rental. The cost of the driving licence will also be met.

7. Suitable protective clothing will be issued to all Coast Preventive Men authorised to perform patrols by motor cycle.

By Order of the Board,

W. E. RHYDDERCH.

E. S. BERTENSHAW.