

MEMO FOR CABINET

Blind persons who satisfy the statutory conditions as to age, certification of blindness and yearly means are entitled to a pension under the Old Age Pensions Act, 1948 (Act No. XXV of 1948).

The Act defines a blind person as a "person of whom the visual acuity in each eye cannot, with glasses, be corrected to more than 3/60 (Snellen test type) as certified by an ophthalmologist."

The Malta Society for the Blind is suggesting that the definition of a blind person should be amended to read "a blind person means a person who is so blind as to be unable to perform any work for which eyesight is essential as certified by an ophthalmologist".

It is agreed that the suggested definition is in accordance with practice in U.K. and other countries. Moreover it is not envisaged that there will be any financial repercussion as a result of the new definition.

Honourable Ministers are therefore invited to agree to the proposed definition which will necessitate a minor amendment to the Old Age Pensions Act, 1948.

DSS 63/65.

29/11/66.