

MEMO FOR CABINET

In January 1967 Cabinet approved the amendment of items 5 and 6 of the Third Schedule to the National Assistance Act to be included in the Budget 1967/68. (memo No. 598 - OPM 49/65).

2. The items proposed then read as follows:

5. Serious complications from acute infectious or constitutional diseases and from trauma.

6. Threat of serious complications arising from diabetes.

The underlined words constituted the alterations to the original text.

3. The amendments as approved were not deemed, on reconsideration, to be satisfactory as they did not meet the scope for which they were meant, namely, to help persons needing assistance at the appropriate time and before it was too late to be of any real use.

4. To surmount this difficulty the matter was discussed at length at a meeting held with the C.G.M.O. and the medical consultants in St Luke Hospital, when agreement was reached on the re-wording of items 5 and 6 as follows:

Item 5 - Serious disability arising from diseases, congenital or acquired.

Item 6 - Cases of diabetes with onset before the age of 30, and all cases of diabetes with incipient complications of a progressive nature.

5. It was also proposed to include a new item 12 to cover Coeliac Syndrome, Idiopathic Steathorrea and Ulcerative Colitis.

6. The/...

6. The proposed new versions of items 5 and 6 are more correct technically and will provide effective assistance where and when it is needed most.
7. The diseases proposed in item 12 are uncommon but the few cases which may exist deserve assistance. The financial implications resulting from their inclusion in the schedule will be negligible.
8. Honourable Ministers are invited to agree to the amendment of the Third Schedule to the National Assistance Act as now proposed.

15th July, 1967.