



# WATCH TOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF BRITAIN

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SA August 17, 1998

## TO ALL TRAVELLING OVERSEERS AND BODIES OF ELDERS

Dear Brothers:

We wrote to all travelling overseers and bodies of elders on July 1, setting out certain policy directives in connection with the operation of district and circuit cars. The many phone calls and letters are indicative of a fine response from the travelling overseers. They have truly appreciated the direction given and are sure to quickly implement the arrangement, if it is not already in effect.

However, quite a number are now requesting further clarification with regard to reimbursements for food expenses. It is impossible to cover every conceivable situation that might arise and so details must be left to the judgement of you brothers. You are mature, spiritual men. You all enjoy a fine relationship with Jehovah and would not want to jeopardise this in any way so we must leave you to exercise good judgement in connection with claims for food expenses. Nevertheless, to assist you, the Branch Committee is pleased to reiterate the general guidelines already established in our letter of January 1, 1991 addressed To All Travelling Overseers, and the covering letter to All Bodies of Elders, of the same date.

1. In most cases the Society prefers travelling overseers to accept hospitality with the local brothers. This proves a sound basis for a “mutual interchange of encouragement.” (Rom. 1:11, 12) If a congregation is unable to offer suitable accommodation and asks the circuit or district overseer to stay in his circuit or district accommodation, the congregation should accept responsibility to cover the food expenses. These bills would not be entered on the ledger but presented to the elders at the close of the visit.
2. If a travelling overseer chooses, of his own volition, to stay in his accommodation—even when the congregation offers accommodation—he should accept liability for covering his food costs. Elders may voluntarily offer some financial assistance but are not obliged to do so.
3. Food required by the travelling overseer for the week-end should not be charged to the congregation nor included in the cash ledger. It should be paid for by the travelling overseer out of his monthly reimbursement, together with kind gifts received *over the course of the weeks* from individual brothers.

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4. Where there is a period of prolonged sickness and it is considered advisable for the travelling overseer to stay at his accommodation for a few weeks, congregations will lovingly understand that this is an emergency and will be happy to defray the cost of food. If there is a shortfall this can be included in the travelling overseer's monthly report.
5. District overseers should also maintain a cash ledger system for the district car and observe the guidelines regarding food expenses, etc. However, for assembly weekends (Friday to Sunday), most district overseers are obliged to return to their accommodation at the Assembly Hall. Their food expenses cannot be covered by a congregation for they are no longer serving the 'host' congregation. These expenses should be submitted to the circuit overseer so that the circuit can cover them as an expression of its hospitality.

You will appreciate that there is nothing new in these guidelines. They have been clearly spelled out in numerous letters and at various seminars over the past 10 years. They are being repeated as a direct result of questions that have been raised over the past month.

We hope you all feel refreshed from the outstanding district conventions and ready to enter into another new service year of theocratic activity. Please accept our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

*Watch Tower B. & J. Society*  
OF BRITAIN