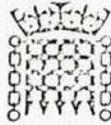


From: WILLIAM ROSS, MP.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

24 January, 1980.

Dear Humphrey

I was approached by a member of the UDR in my constituency in regard to the financial difficulties he is experiencing as a result of being unemployed and, at the same time, carrying out UDR duties, mainly at night. I believe that the enclosed letter which I received from the local office sets out very clearly the effect of the present law on my constituent's weekly income from social security benefits. I have corrected errors on page two of the letter, which Mr McClure brought to my attention in a subsequent letter.

It is clear that those members of the UDR who fall into the same category as _____ are penalized by the operation of the present regulations in two ways. First their weekly income varies wildly and secondly, they, after the duties they perform, are no better off than if they remained at home in bed. Such a situation cannot be to the benefit of the force, and I would hope that you will try to remedy matters. Means of doing so are I think evident from the case of part-time firemen and lifeboat crews.

The TAVR is in effect on a similar footing to the lifeboatmen and firemen as it is most unlikely that the normal period of duty, i.e., evening drills, would be longer than eight hours. The UDR is often, of course, on duty for such a period. I admit that the specific training allowances of the UDR are taken on the same footing as the TAVR drills, but such duties form only a very small part of UDR duties.

The number of persons affected in this way must be very small and in these circumstances I would suggest that if at all possible some means should be found to alleviate the situation.

Yours sincerely
W Ross

The Right Honourable Humphrey Atkins, MP.,
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