
 APPENDIX 1

Reporting, numbering and publication of Commissioners' decisions

1. The way in which decisions of the Commissioners come to be reported, and so included in the bound volumes of Commissioners' decisions which are published at intervals of 2 or 3 years, is explained below.
2. As a matter of law every decision of a Commissioner has to be in writing but the subject matter and the complexity of the question, or questions, to be decided vary greatly; as does the *ratio decidendi* of the decision. Accordingly, certain decisions are selected for reporting. Reported decisions are published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
3. The selection of decisions for reporting is made by the Chief Commissioner after consultation with Commissioners; there is also a general standing invitation to comment on the 'report-worthiness' of any decision. In a Practice Memorandum dated 31 March 1987, superseding the Practice Direction dated 28 October 1982 (bound Volume 1980 to 1982, pp ix - x), the Chief Commissioner said, 'The general basis for the reporting of decisions is that those decisions are reported which concern the general social security field, are of some general significance to it and deal with points of construction on statutes and regulations or with questions of legal principle or their application, and where the decisions are those of which the wider dissemination is conducive to the consistent and orderly operation and development of the law in the social security field. Reported decisions may be taken to command the assent of at least a majority of Commissioners.'
4. From the beginning of 1951, each reported decision has been cited by reference to a combination of letters and numbers, namely the prefix R followed by a letter or letters identifying the benefit involved, and by the number of the decision in annual sequence, for example R(U) 5/86. The identifying letters are as follows:-

A	Attendance allowance
DLA	Disability Living Allowance
DWA	Disability Working Allowance
F	Family allowances and child benefit
FC	Family Credit
FIS	Family Income Supplement
G	Maternity and widow's benefit, guardian's allowance and death grant
I	Industrial injuries, prescribed diseases, appeals from medical appeal tribunals, special hardship allowance and kindred matters
IS	Income Support
M	Mobility allowance
NCIP	Non-contributory invalidity pension (Northern Ireland cases)
P	Retirement pension
S	Sickness and invalidity benefit
SB	Supplementary benefit
SSP	Statutory sick pay
U	Unemployment benefit.

5. Earlier reported decisions are not identified as in paragraph 4 because, up to the end of 1950, decisions which became reported retained their original decision number on publication with the addition of the suffix 'KL' (key law). (To avoid complication, this suffix has been omitted from relevant decisions included in the Digest.) Their numbers were prefixed with the letter 'C' followed by the benefit series letter (see paragraph 4). Scottish and Welsh decisions were given a second prefix letter, 'S' in the case of Scotland, 'W' in the case of Wales. Accordingly, reported decisions for the years 1948 to 1950 are not consecutively numbered. Certain decisions given up to the end of January 1950 bore the suffix 'K' which indicated that the decision was of limited value and did not establish any new principle.

6. At the head of each reported decision a brief summary of the facts of the case, and of the substance of the decision, appears. This headnote is not, however, any part of the Commissioner's decision and it is not therefore, in any way authoritative.

7. Copies of reported decisions of the Commissioners may be purchased, both individually and in the bound volumes referred to in paragraph 1, from HMSO and may also be inspected at most local offices of the Department of Health and Social Security by claimants and/or their representatives.