

Any communication on the subject of this letter should be addressed to:-
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
HOME OFFICE,
and the following number quoted:-

7070
HOME OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
LONDON, S.W.1.

8th December, 1950.

H.O.223/50
F.1.

Sir,

HOME OFFICE CIRCULAR NO.223/1950
Assistance to Police Sports Clubs

I am directed by the Secretary of State to say that he has had under consideration the recommendation in paragraph 392 of the Report of the Committee on Police Conditions of Service (the Oaksey Committee) that assistance should be given to foster sports activities in police forces. It was the Committee's view that organised games should do much to make the police service attractive to men of the type that it was desired to recruit, and therefore that police authorities should be prepared to meet out of the police fund the cost of providing sports grounds, pavilions and similar capital assets which would otherwise be beyond the scope of the members of a police sports club. At the meeting of the Police Council held on 26th and 27th January last, there was a considerable measure of agreement with this recommendation.

2 The practice with regard to the provision of sports grounds has varied a great deal in the past. For the future, however, individual police authorities will wish to review their practice in the light of the Committee's recommendations. Where an authority, being satisfied that there is a general desire in a force for a sports ground which, if provided, would be substantially used by members of the force, is willing to make suitable provision to meet the demand, either by purchase or, in suitable cases, by acquiring a tenancy, approved capital expenditure, including the cost of putting the ground in a fit condition, will be recognised for the purposes of the Exchequer grant. Similarly, where the police authority or the sports club becomes the tenant of a rented ground reasonable expenditure incurred in respect of rent and rates will be recognised as a proper charge on the police fund.

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The Clerk to the Police Authority.

The Chief Constable.

3 With regard to the other expenses which may be incurred by a police sports club, the Oaksey Committee considered that it was right that members of the forces should themselves make some contribution, but that the police authority should contribute a sum equal to the amount of the subscriptions paid by the members of the club and subject to a maximum contribution not exceeding 10/- per head in any year. Police authorities will wish to consider their practice in this matter also. The Secretary of State will be prepared to recognise reasonable expenditure incurred by an authority by way of contributions on the above basis. Other expenditure, including the day-to-day maintenance of the sports ground, travelling expenses and equipment should, however, remain the responsibility of the club, and only in very exceptional circumstances will the Secretary of State be prepared to consider allowing any charge in respect of wages of ground staff as approved police expenditure for the purposes of the Exchequer grant.

An additional copy of this circular is enclosed for the information of the Chief Financial Officer.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

S. J. Barker.

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