EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These Regulations (which supersede the Telegraph (Imperial and Foreign Written Telegram) Regulations, 1937 and the Telegraph (Empire Social Telegram) Regulations, 1939) give effect to certain modifications in the International Telegraph service brought about by the International Telegraph Regulations and the International Radio Regulations (including the Additional Radio Regulations) annexed to the International Telecommunication Convention, Atlantic City, 1947. They also embody, with amendments, the regulations relating to Empire Social Telegrams, now known as Commonwealth Social telegrams.

The principal changes in the International Telegraph service are the abolition of the reduced rate of charge for code telegrams, the abolition of the deferred telegram service and the night letter telegram and daily letter telegram services. Accordingly, no provision for such services has been made in these Regulations. Provision has been made however for an Extra-European letter telegram service and for the phototelegram service.

The Telegraph (Inland Written Press Telegrams) Regulations 1950

1950 No. 1810

Made - - - -	*9th November,* 1950
Laid before Parliament	*13th November,* 1950
Coming into Operation	*20th November,* 1950

I, The Right Honourable Ness Edwards, M.P., His Majesty's Postmaster General, with the consent of the Treasury, do, by virtue of the power vested in me by section 2 of the Telegraph Act 1885(**a**) as amended by section 1 of the Post Office and Telegraph Act 1897(**b**) and of all other powers enabling me in this behalf, hereby make the following Regulations that is to say:—

Interpretation

1. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:—

The expression "press telegram" means a telegram which is transmissible at a special rate of charge in pursuance of a contract, agreement, or arrangement entered into by the Postmaster-General by virtue of the powers conferred by section 16 of the Telegraph Act, 1868(**c**), as amended by section 3 of the Post Office and Telegraph Act, 1940(**d**).

The expression "contractor" means and includes any person with whom a contract, agreement, or arrangement under the provisions of section 16 of the Telegraph Act, 1868 as so amended is subsisting.

The expression "pass" means a document, in such form and containing such particulars as the Postmaster-General shall prescribe, signed by the sender, and attached to a press telegram.

(a) 48 & 49 Vict. c. 58. (b) 60 & 61 Vict. c. 41. (c) 31 & 32 Vict. c. 110.
(d) 3 & 4 Geo. 6. c. 25.

The expression " continuous message " means a series of press telegrams tendered for transmission at different times, but forming a continuous communication relating to one matter complete in itself, and such that the several press telegrams of which the continuous message consists must, to make the communication intelligible, be read consecutively in the order in which they are tendered.

The expression " the British Islands " means the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

The Interpretation Act, 1889(a), applies to the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

Application

2. These Regulations shall apply to written press telegrams transmitted between places in the British Islands, and, so far as relates to acceptance, transmission, delivery and treatment under the authority of the Postmaster-General, to written press telegrams transmitted between the British Islands and the Republic of Ireland.

Contents of a press telegram

3. A press telegram may contain any of the following particulars if intended for immediate publication in a newspaper, or for immediate exhibition in a news-room, club, or exchange-room, that is to say:—

(1) Narratives, statements, information, or comments of or upon matters of public interest for the time being.

(2) Reports of public speeches, lectures, sermons, proceedings in courts of justice, or other public proceedings.

Provided that a press telegram must not consist of or contain any of the following particulars, that is to say:—

(i) A letter to the editor of a newspaper.

(ii) Anything for the publication of which in a newspaper a money payment is usually required from the person requesting such publication.

(iii) Anything written wholly or in part in cypher or code or in a foreign language.

(iv) Anything not intended for immediate publication in the newspaper to which it is addressed, or for immediate exhibition in the news-room, club, or exchange-room to which it is addressed.

(v) Any other matter, whether of a like kind or not, in respect of which the privilege of transmission under these Regulations would, in the opinion of the Postmaster-General, be liable to be abused or be attended with inconvenience to the public service.

Places at which press telegrams can be delivered

4. Except as otherwise arranged, the only places at which press telegrams can be delivered are:—

(1) The publishing or printing offices of any newspaper registered for inland transmission under the Post Office Acts, 1908 to 1940(b) with the proprietors or publishers of which the Postmaster-General has entered into a contract, agreement, or arrangement, in pursuance of section 16 of the Telegraph Act, 1868(c) and the offices in the British Islands of any newspaper published in any other part of His Majesty's dominions, with the proprietors or publishers of which the Postmaster-General has entered into such a contract, agreement, or arrangement.

(a) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.
(b) 8 Edw. 7. c. 48; 5 & 6 Geo. 5. c. 82; 10 & 11 Geo. 5. c. 40; 3 & 4 Geo. 6. c. 25.
(c) 31 & 32 Vict. c. 110.

(2) Any news-room, club, or exchange-room, with the proprietor or occupier of which the Postmaster-General has entered into a contract, agreement, or arrangement in pursuance of the same section.

(3) The offices of any persons (hereinafter called " News Agencies ") for the time being registered by the Postmaster-General as agents for the distribution of news to any such newspaper, news-room, club, or exchange-room or to the proprietor, publisher or occupier thereof respectively.

Provided that no office will be recognised as an office at which press telegrams can be delivered until it has been accepted and registered as such by the Postmaster-General.

Address on press telegrams

5.—(1) The only address on a press telegram must be the full name of the newspaper, news-room, club, exchange-room, or news agency to the office of which it is to be transmitted and the name of the city, town or district in which such office is situate. A telegram addressed to any person by name or title or designation of his appointment is not a press telegram.

(2) Except as otherwise arranged, the list of addresses to which a press telegram is to be delivered must be written at the head of the telegram when tendered.

Charges for transmission

6.—(1) The rate of charge for the transmission of a press telegram tendered for transmission to one or more addresses at 6 p.m. or between 6 p.m. and 9 a.m. (hereinafter called " the night rate "), is as follows, that is to say:—

(i) One shilling and three pence for every 80 words, or for any fractional part of 80 words, and also

(ii) If intended to be delivered at more than one address an additional sum of 3d. for every 80 words, or for any fractional part of 80 words (hereinafter called " the night copy rate "), in respect of every address except one at which the same is to be delivered.

(2) The rate of charge for the transmission of a press telegram tendered for transmission to one or more addresses at 9 a.m. or between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. (hereinafter called " the day rate ") is as follows, that is to say:—

(i) One shilling and three pence for every 60 words, or for any fractional part of 60 words, and also

(ii) If intended to be delivered at more than one address an additional sum of 3d. for every 60 words, or for any fractional part of 60 words (hereinafter called " the day copy rate "), in respect of every address except one at which the same is to be delivered.

Charges for additional transmission

7. If after the transmission of a press telegram the sender desires to have it transmitted to an address not included in the original list of addresses, the telegram shall, for the purposes of such additional transmission, be treated as a new telegram.

Free delivery within certain limits

8.—(1) The sum charged for the transmission of a press telegram shall cover delivery at any address within the limits of free delivery.

(2) Subject to the provisions of these Regulations, the limits of free delivery shall be one mile from the terminal telegraph office, or, if the terminal telegraph office is a head post office, and the town postal delivery of letters from such office extends beyond one mile, then the limits of such postal delivery.

(3) If the place of delivery be beyond such limits the same charge is payable for delivery (in addition to the charge for transmission) as is payable under the Regulations for the time being applicable to ordinary Inland Written Telegrams in respect of delivery at an address beyond the limits of free delivery.

Passes

9.—(1) Passes may be issued by the Postmaster-General to contractors, and no form of pass not so issued, and no pass which has been defaced added to or altered (otherwise than by the deletion of one or more of the addresses printed thereon) shall be used.

(2) A pass so issued may be used in respect of the transmission of any press telegram to the address or set of addresses specified thereon or any one or more of such addresses.

Payment of charges

10.—(1) All charges for the transmission and delivery of a press telegram shall be paid by the sender either on presentation of the telegram or otherwise as the Postmaster-General may require except in the case of a telegram to which a pass is attached.

(2) Any press telegram to which a pass is attached shall be paid for by the contractor to whom the pass was issued, at such rate as shall be applicable and in accordance with the arrangement with such contractor.

(3) If a press telegram is tendered for transmission to more than one address:—

(i) The transmission of the telegram to addresses in respect of which one pass is used shall be charged for as regards one of such addresses at the day rate or the night rate (as the case may be) and as regards each of the other addresses at the day copy rate or the night copy rate (as the case may be);

(ii) Where more than one pass is used, the transmission of the telegram to the address or set of addresses specified on each pass shall be charged for as a separate telegram and the provisions of sub-paragraph (i) of this paragraph shall apply accordingly as respects the address or set of addresses on each such pass;

(iii) If passes are not used in respect of all of the addresses, the transmission of the telegram to addresses in respect of which passes are used shall be charged for as provided by the preceding paragraphs of this regulation, and the transmission to the remaining addresses shall be charged for as regards one of such addresses at the day rate or the night rate (as the case may be) and as regards each of the other addresses at the day copy rate or the night copy rate (as the case may be).

Repetition of press telegram

11. On delivery of a press telegram at the office of destination the Contractor or his agent may have the telegram or any part thereof repeated on payment of one half of the charge which would be payable for the transmission as a press telegram to one address of the telegram or part thereof to be repeated calculated at the rate of charge applicable at the time when

the request for repetition is made. If on repetition it appears that the telegram or part thereof repeated was in the first instance incorrectly transmitted the amount so paid shall be refunded.

Charges for continuous messages

12.—(1) For the purpose of ascertaining the charge for the transmission of a continuous message, all consecutive telegrams of the series of which the continuous message consists shall be counted together and charged for as parts of one and the same message, if the following conditions are complied with, that is to say:—

(i) No telegram tendered for transmission between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. can be counted together with a telegram tendered between 6 p.m. and 9 a.m.

(ii) All the telegrams forming part of a continuous message must be sent to the same address or the same set of addresses.

(iii) No telegram shall be counted as less than 60 words if chargeable at the day rate, or as less than 80 words if chargeable at the night rate, although the actual number of words may be less than 60 words or 80 words, as the case may be.

(iv) The telegrams to be counted together must be tendered at intervals not exceeding one hour between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 a.m. or at intervals not exceeding half an hour between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., and further in the case of reports of speeches the telegrams to be counted together must be tendered consecutively at intervals sufficiently short to keep the Post Office Telegraph clerks fully employed.

(2) Every telegram or series of telegrams forming part of a continuous message with respect to which the conditions specified in the preceding paragraph are not complied with shall be counted and charged for as a separate telegram or series of telegrams.

(3) For the purpose of ascertaining the porterage payable for the delivery of a continuous message at a place beyond the limits of free delivery, each telegram of the series of which the message consists which is separately delivered shall be deemed to be a separate and distinct telegram.

Treatment of words not forming part of press telegram

13. If any words which are not transmissible as a press telegram, or part thereof, are included in or added to a press telegram, such words shall not be counted or charged for as part of the press telegram but shall be charged and paid for as a separate telegram at the full rate of charge authorised by the Regulations relating to ordinary Inland Written Telegrams. Provided that in the case of a telegram which forms part of a continuous message, the following words may be transmitted by way of instructions to the Post Office Telegraph clerks free of charge:—

The words "more to follow," when written at the end of a telegram which forms part of a continuous message.

The words "continuation of message," when written at the commencement of any such telegram.

The words "end of message", when written at the end of the last telegram of the series of which the continuous message consists.

Method of counting

14.—(*a*) Where a combination of words is by the usage of the English language recognised as one word, whether written together, with or without a mark of abbreviation, or joined by a hyphen, such combination, when so

written, shall be counted as one word. In all other cases a combination of words shall be counted according to the number of separate words contained in it.

(*b*) Names of towns and persons are counted according to the number of separate words or names contained in them, with the exception of patronymics such as O', Mc, Mac, and Fitz, and prefixes such as St., which are counted as part of the word or name next following.

(*c*) Each sign or symbol of punctuation is counted and charged for as one word, whether expressed by a word or indicated by a sign or symbol.

(*d*) If words are intended to be underlined or placed in a parenthesis or within inverted commas in the transcript of the telegram to be made at the terminal Telegraph Office two additional words are counted and charged for in respect of each underline or parenthesis or set of inverted commas.

(*e*) Numbers expressed in figures are counted and charged for at the rate of one word for each figure.

(*f*) Ordinal numbers expressed in figures are counted and charged for according to paragraph (*e*) of this regulation, and an additional word is counted and charged for in each case for the affixes st, nd, rd, th.

(*g*) Where a group of figures is followed by a letter of the alphabet the letter is counted and charged for as a word.

(*h*) Fractions expressed in figures are counted and charged for at the rate of one word for each figure, with an additional word for the bar used to indicate the fraction, and an additional word for any affix that may be used.

(*i*) In groups of letters and figures which express time the bar or other division (if any) which separates hours and minutes is counted and charged for as one word, and the expressions A.M. and P.M. are each counted and charged for as one word.

(*j*) Sums of money expressed in figures combined with letters and bars or other symbols are counted and charged for at the rate of one word for each figure, letter, or symbol.

(*k*) The symbol %, meaning per cent., is counted and charged for as three words. The same expression when written in words is counted as two words.

(*l*) When sums of money are expressed partly in words and partly in figures, each figure is counted and charged for as a separate word.

Hours of business

15. The Offices appointed by the Postmaster-General to be places for the receipt and despatch of press telegrams shall be open for that purpose during such hours as the Postmaster-General shall appoint in respect of each office.

Notice required of long Press telegrams

16. At least 24 hours' previous notice of the intention to tender a press telegram exceeding 200 words in length shall be given by letter or paid telegram addressed to the Controller Telegraphs, Central Telegraph Office, London, naming the office at which it will be tendered and the address at which it must be delivered, and stating the probable length of the intended telegram and the time at which it will probably be tendered for transmission. In the absence of such notice, a press telegram exceeding 200 words in length will not be accepted for transmission as such unless, in the opinion of the postmaster, it can be transmitted in due course without seriously delaying the transmission of other telegrams.

Non-liability of Postmaster-General

17. The Postmaster-General shall not be liable for any loss or damage which may be incurred or sustained by reason or on account of any mistake or default in the transmission or delivery of a press telegram.

Decision of Postmaster-General to be final

18. The decision of the Postmaster-General shall be final on the question whether any telegram tendered for transmission is entitled to be transmitted as a press telegram, and on any other question arising under these Regulations.

Revocation

19. The Regulations mentioned in the Schedule hereto are hereby revoked.

Date of commencement

20. These Regulations shall come into operation on the 20th day of November, 1950.

Short title

21. These Regulations may be cited as " The Telegraph (Inland Written Press Telegrams) Regulations, 1950 ".

Date

Dated this 9th day of November, 1950.

Ness Edwards,
His Majesty's Postmaster-General.

We hereby consent to the Regulations herein set forth.

R. J. Taylor,
Charles Royle,
Two of the Commissioners of
His Majesty's Treasury.
9th November, 1950.

SCHEDULE

REGULATIONS REVOKED

Short Title	*Dates*
The Telegraph (Inland Written Press Telegram) Regulations, 1927(a) ...	14th April, 1927
The Telegraph (Inland Written Press Telegrams) Amendment (No. 1) Regulations, 1940(b)...	29th June, 1940

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These Regulations consolidate with amendments the Regulations relating to Inland Written Press Telegrams. No alteration in rates or changes of substance are made.

(a) S.R. & O. 1927 (No. 323) p. 1763. (b) S.R. & O. 1940 (No. 1155) I, p. 1017.