



Secretariat

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INFORMATION CIRCULAR

Subject: Dependent spouse allowance for staff in the General Services and related categories at Geneva on board prior to 1 September 1995

1. It will be recalled that paragraph 3 of IC/Geneva/4182/Add 1 of 4 December 1995 indicated that the then existing rate for a dependent spouse (CHF 6,406) continued to be applicable to those staff members on board, and in receipt of that allowance, on 31 August 1995.
2. It will also be recalled that eligibility for the payment of a spouse allowance is determined in relation to a threshold (earning limit) which represents the maximum gross earnings allowable for the spouse of a staff member concerned. (Full explanations on the issue are provided in IC/Geneva /4526 of 10 February 1997).
3. In the case of staff members on board prior to 1 September 1995 and in receipt of a dependent spouse allowance prior to that date, the yearly earning limit for spouses working in Switzerland should have been maintained at CHF 63,791 since 1996. However, it was established at CHF 58,996 in 1996, CHF 59,705 in 1997 and CHF 58,342 in 1998. Thus some eligible staff members may have either received a reduced dependent spouse allowance, or lost the allowance altogether during these periods.
4. Those General Service (GS) Category staff members on board prior to 1 September 1995 and in receipt of a dependent spouse allowance prior to that date, who have reason to believe that their spouse allowance was reduced or discontinued from 1996 to 1999 due to the introduction of the lower earning limits shown in para 3 above, are invited to contact their Personnel Assistants, providing information and supporting documentation regarding their spouse's income during the periods in question (see IC/Geneva/4526). They will subsequently receive indication whether a retroactive entitlement is due, and the amount of payment involved, if any.

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