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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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£10 CHRISTMAS BONUS TO BE PAID AGAIN THIS YEAR WEEK BEGINNING 3 DECEMBER 1984

Dr Rhodes Boyson, Minister of State for Social Security, announced today (Thursday) that this year's £10 Christmas Bonus would be paid the week beginning 3 December 1984. The bonus will be paid to about 10.9 million retired, widowed or disabled people at a cost of £109 million. It is tax free.

In answer to a Parliamentary Question from Mr James Couchman, MP for Gillingham, Dr Rhodes Boyson said: "A Christmas Bonus of £10 will be paid again this year to people who for the week commencing 3 December are entitled to payment of one of the qualifying benefits."

NOTE FOR EDITORS

The £10 Christmas Bonus was first introduced in 1972.

The bonus has been paid every year since, except in 1975 and 1976, and was made a statutory annual entitlement through the Pensioners' Payments and Social Security Act 1979.

It is payable to any person who, in the qualifying week, is entitled to one of the following benefits:

Retirement pension or 'over 80' pension (including retirement pensioners whose pension is not payable in that week because of earnings).

Widow's benefit

Attendance allowance

Invalid care allowance

Invalidity pension

Non-contributory invalidity pension (or housewives' non-contributory invalidity pension)

Supplementary pension

Unemployability supplement or allowance, or constant attendance allowance,
paid with war or industrial disablement pension

War disablement pension where the person is over pension age, retired
and not getting one of the other qualifying benefits

War widow's pension

Industrial injuries widow's or widower's pension