

- (3) If a packet shall be tendered to the sender under the provisions of this paragraph and he refuses or fails to pay any charges to which the packet has become liable, the packet may be dealt with or disposed of in such manner as the Post Office may think fit.

Return of undeliverable parcels

17. In the case of:

- (a) a parcel which for any reason cannot be delivered, or
(b) a parcel which is addressed to a place not within the limits of the postal delivery area of any town or district or to a ship in a port in the British postal area, and which is not called for or delivered within such time as the Post Office considers reasonable,

the following provisions shall apply:

- (1) The parcel shall be retained at, or forthwith forwarded to, such place as the Post Office may from time to time appoint and may, if necessary, be there opened and examined.
(2) Where the name and address of the sender can be ascertained from the parcel, then, subject to sub-paragraphs (4), (5) and (6):

- (a) unless it is a postage forward parcel, it shall be returned to the sender free of charge;
(b) if it is a postage forward parcel, it shall be returned to the sender charged with postage equal in amount to that which would have been payable on it originally if it has been posted otherwise than as a postage forward parcel.

- (3) Where the name and address of the sender cannot be ascertained from the parcel, it shall be retained for a period of 3 months beginning with the day when it was opened and examined to await a claim from the sender or addressee.

- (4) Where, in the case of a parcel which cannot be delivered for want of a true direction, the sender corrects the address of the parcel, the parcel shall be forwarded to the corrected address subject to the following conditions:

- (a) where the corrected address of the parcel is served from the same delivery office as the original address, and the parcel is not at the time of such correction lying at a returned letter office, no additional charge shall be made with respect to the delivery of the parcel;
(b) where the corrected address of the parcel is not served from the same delivery office as the original address, or the parcel at the time of such correction is lying at a returned letter office, the sender shall at the time when the address is corrected pay additional postage of the same amount as that which would be prepayable on the parcel if it were posted anew to the corrected address:

Provided that if for any reason, the parcel cannot be delivered at the corrected address, the provisions of sub-paragraph (2) or sub-paragraph (3) shall apply.

- (5) Where, in the case of a parcel which for any reason cannot be delivered (not being a case such as is mentioned in sub-paragraph (4) in which the parcel is to be forwarded to a corrected address):

- (a) the parcel is subsequently retransmitted to the addressee at the request of the sender or of the addressee; or
(b) the name and address of a substituted addressee is furnished by the sender or by the addressee and the parcel is transmitted to the substituted address,

the addressee or, as the case may be, the substituted addressee, shall pay additional postage of the same amount as that which would have been prepayable on the parcel if it has been posted anew for such retransmission or transmission.

- (6) Notwithstanding anything herein contained, a parcel shall not be given up or returned by post to the sender except upon payment by him of any charge to which the parcel has become liable under the provisions of any such regulations as are referred to in Section 116 of the Act.

- (7) The Post Office may require proof to its satisfaction that a person claiming a parcel is entitled to receive it as (or as the agent of) the sender or the addressee.

(8) Where:

- (a) in the case of a parcel retained under sub-paragraph (3), no claim is made within the period therein provided by any person who appears to the Post Office to be entitled to receive it, or the claimant (being such a person) refuses or fails to pay any such charge as is mentioned in sub-paragraph (6); or
(b) in the case of a parcel forwarded to the address of the sender (by way of return) pursuant to sub-paragraph (2), or tendered for delivery at the address to which it has been retransmitted or the substituted address pursuant to sub-paragraph (5), the parcel is refused at that address, or the sender, addressee or substituted addressee (as the case may be) refuses or fails to pay any postage or additional postage payable thereon under this paragraph or any such charge as is mentioned in sub-paragraph (6).

the parcel may be dealt with or disposed of in such manner as the Post Office may think fit.

- (9) Any parcel in the possession of the Post Office which becomes offensive or injurious to any officer of the Post Office, or other person, or to other parcels, or which is likely from its character or condition to become offensive or injurious as aforesaid, or to become valueless before it can be delivered or otherwise dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this Scheme, may forthwith be dealt with or disposed of in such manner as the Post Office may think fit, notwithstanding that the provisions of this Scheme as to the return of such parcel have not been, or have only partially been, complied with.

Treatment of packets addressed to deceased persons

- 18.—(1) Where the Post Office is satisfied that the addressee of postal packets is dead, it may at its discretion:

- (a) deliver or redirect such postal packets on the written application of any one or more of the executors named in the will of the addressee, or of a person appearing to the Post Office to be entitled to take out letters of administration to the estate of the addressee, or in Scotland of a majority or quorum of the executors or (if there is no will) of the person whose appointment is being sought as executor dative; or
(b) deliver or redirect such postal packets on the written application of any person appearing to the Post Office to be conducting the affairs of the deceased addressee of the postal packets; or
(c) retain such postal packets for such period as it may think fit and, on production of probate of the will or letters of administration to the estate of the addressee together with the written application of one or more of the executors or administrators, or in Scotland on production of confirmation together with the written application of a majority or quorum of the executors or the executor dative, deliver or redirect the packets in accordance with such application; or
(d) treat such postal packets in accordance with the provisions of this Scheme as postal packets which cannot be delivered.