



Patron Her Majesty The Queen

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17 July 2008

Dear Colleague

BRANCH FUNDS

Following this year's Annual Conference, I am writing to let you know how the Board of Trustees plans to proceed with the new system for banking Branch funds.

At our Board meeting in June, we debated how to move forward after the Conference motion to rescind the proposed scheme was passed. Having listened closely to the debate and carefully considered the options available, the Trustees unanimously decided to proceed with the initiative. Not to do so would have been a serious breach of the Trustees' duty of care under our legal obligations arising from the Trustee Act 2000. However, given the Conference motion and the concerns expressed by some Branches, we propose to give more time before the system becomes universally adopted to enable us to talk to you directly and explain the benefits of the system more fully.

It is clear to us that the initiative is still not fully understood. The new system offers Branches a high interest savings account paying base rate (currently five per cent) for any amount of money from £1 upwards. You will have access to your Branch funds with four days notice and you will still be able to use them for any purpose permitted under the Royal Charter. This as an attractive offering giving you a safe, secure and profitable home for your surplus funds – allowing you to concentrate on Legion business.

We know that not all Branches were represented at Conference and we would like to give the whole organisation an opportunity to discuss the scheme with us and ask questions directly – so we are planning to arrange a series of regional meetings to talk directly to as many of you as possible over the coming months. The plan for taking the scheme forward over the next few months is as follows:

Date	Activity
September 2008	Letter from the Finance Director to Branch Chairmen detailing contact points and enclosing the appropriate forms and a question and answer brief
September 2008	Presentation of the Communication Plan to Membership Council
October – December 2008	Regional seminars for County and Branch Chairmen
January - February 2009	Legion Trustees and staff attend County Conferences
May 2009	Engage with members at National Conference

Following the range of communications and meetings to take place over the coming year, we hope that by June next year all Branches will feel able to participate in the new system. Those who wish to participate in the scheme now can still do so and we are retaining 1 October 2008 as our initial target for implementation. More than 100 branches are already participating giving their support to a worthwhile initiative that will give the Legion more money to spend on much-needed welfare services to our beneficiaries in the serving and ex-Service community.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Cleminson', written in a cursive style.

Peter Cleminson
National Chairman

Sent to:

- County Chairmen
- County Presidents
- Branch Chairmen
- Branch Presidents
- Branch Treasurers

Copied to via email:

- Regional Managers
- County Managers
- County Secretaries