



WHAT IS TBF?

The present Charity was established under a Declaration of Trust dated August 27, 1996, on which date it was registered as a charity. It has the legal status of an unincorporated association.

Its roots go back to the First World War when, in order to supplement the income of the dependants of those called to service with the armed forces, the Train, Omnibus and Tramway Group of London passenger transport companies set up the T.O.T. Mutual Aid Fund. Subscriptions were paid on a voluntary basis and were matched penny for penny by the participating companies. This enabled the service pay of employees to be supplemented so their families would not suffer undue hardship. Special help was also provided to relieve domestic difficulties and to offer medical and legal advice.

The activities of the Fund were so successful that the T.O.T. Group (by then consisting of twelve public transport and associated companies) entered into a Declaration of Trust, the result of which was the formation of the Train, Omnibus and Tramway Benevolent Fund on January 1, 1923. Ten years later the T.O.T. Group and other undertakings were amalgamated to form the London Passenger Transport Board ('London Transport') and the name of the Fund was changed to the London Transport Benevolent Fund.

In January 1990, as a result of the fragmentation of London Transport, a new Deed was adopted, by which was formed the Transport Benevolent Fund (Registered Charity No 1002586). The transfer of assets from the London Transport Benevolent Fund to the first Transport Benevolent Fund was not successfully achieved, and the present charity (Registered Charity No 1058032) was established to take over the assets of the earlier one of the same name and (insofar as they had not been transferred earlier) those of the London Transport Benevolent Fund.

The transfer took place in accordance with a Charity Commissioners' Scheme of December 19, 1996, together with the transfer of the assets of the associated London Transport War Comforts Fund Association. This charity had been established on November 29, 1939 to provide relief for London Transport staff while on active service as well as their families, or following death or disablement as a result of the Second World War or any extension of it. At the time of transfer to the new charity, this charity still provided relief to eleven widows whose husbands had been killed either while on service or in air raids; seven of the ladies have since passed away.

The purpose of TBF is to relieve in cases of need, hardship or distress Beneficiaries and their dependants.

The term beneficiary is defined in the Declaration of Trust but, in brief, it means a person who is (or was) employed in any way in any business concerned wholly or partly with the provision of public transport either within or to or from any part of Great Britain. The Declaration of Trust provides for the Trustees to make Rules for the regulation of the charity and, under these, they have determined that - other than in exceptional circumstances - only Fund Members and their dependants shall be eligible for relief. The Rules contain a full definition of the term Fund Member.

The Declaration of Trust makes special provision for the continuance of relief for those who were receiving this from the London Transport War Comforts Fund Association at the time its assets were transferred to the new charity.