

LINKAGE COMMISSION

SICK SUPPLY FUND RULES

1. The fund covers the cost of Supply Fees paid by the congregation up to the amount of the 2 services rate as set out in the Code for any one Sunday (£132/€190 in 2026). Special arrangements apply for joint Charges for Harvest Sundays and Children's Days and for all Charges for Christmas Day. Travelling expenses should be paid by the congregation in accordance with Par. 238 (4) of the Code.
2. Payment from the Sick Supply Fund is available from the **3rd Sunday of medically certified disability** and continues to be available for 11 months or until the Protracted Illness Guidelines are implemented or until recovery, if sooner, or other decision is made by the Linkage Commission. The cost of supplies during the 2 initial Sundays should be met by congregations or from other local sources.
3. Payments may be applied for, using the appropriate Application Form, at the end of each calendar month or every 2 months or quarterly.

For Ministers returning to duties after medically certified disability

For Ministers returning to active service after an extended period of absence due to illness the following is normally provided:

- (a) For up to (and including) two Sundays of eligibility for Sick Supply funding (as outlined above), reimbursement may be sought for a supply fee for one Sunday's service(s).
- (b) A further Supply Fee for one Sunday's service(s) for every additional four Sundays reimbursed by the Sick Supply Fund, up to a maximum of 12 such Supply Fees in any 12 month period.
- (c) Travelling expenses should be paid by the congregation in accordance with Para. 238 (4) of the Code.
- (d) Reimbursement should be sought using the appropriate Application Form (available from the General Secretary's Department), at the conclusion of the arrangement.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Eg (i) Date of 1st Sunday of medically certified disability – Sunday 21st April 2013
Date of 3rd Sunday of medically certified disability - Sunday 5th May 2013
Date of recommencement of Duties - Sunday 11th August 2013
Therefore 14 Sundays eligible for sick supply fund reimbursement

(ii) As in (a) above, 1 Supply Fee for 1 Sunday's service(s) can be claimed.

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(iii) As in (b) above, to calculate the remaining eligibility for claim deduct the two weeks from the 14 weeks to leave 12. Divide the 12 week period by 4 yielding 3 further Supply Fees.

Therefore in this case, if desired, Supply Fees for 4 Sundays' Services(s) may be claimed.

Important Note :

Under the provisions of Sick Supply Fund, Congregations with a Licensed Assistant, Ordained Assistant or Associate Minister will normally be entitled to claim supply fees for a maximum of 50% of the Services during their Minister's illness, with the remainder of the normal rules applying. Such Congregations are normally not entitled to claim supply fees under the 'return to duties' section of the scheme.

Adopted by the Union Commission on Tuesday 26th November 2013

Applicable from 1st January 2014: figures revised 1st January 2026