EXTRACT FROM AN EXCHANGE BETWEEN OFFICIALS ON
NOTIFICATION OF IMPRISONED OR INEBRIATED PENSIONERS – 1911

National Archives record AST 15/63

“The arrangements made with the Police Authorities in 1908 and 1909 stipulate only for cases where claimants or pensioners have been imprisoned without the option of a fine… In view of Section 4 (3) of the 1911 Act which provides that a pensioner who is convicted of any of the offences mentioned or deemed to be mentioned in the First Schedule to the Inebriates Act 1898 shall (unless the court direct to the contrary) be disqualified for a period of 6 months even if allowed the option of a fine, it seems desirable that we should approach the Police with a view to having existing arrangements amplified so as to extend to cases of the above type. These cases are likely to be numerous and it would be a very easy matter for a convicted pensioner to pay his fine (generally 5/-) and continue to draw his pension without interruption. Our letters will also serve to renew attention to the existing arrangements which have apparently been forgotten by the police in several instances.”

“I agree that it is desirable, in view of Section 4 (3) of the New Act, to seek the co-operation of the Police Authorities, or the Magistracy, in order that Pension Officers may be in a position to take immediate steps to stop payment of the pension and to raise a question in the case of any pensioner who becomes disqualified under that section or under section 3 (3) of the Act of 1908. It is therefore suggested that the attention of the Under Secretary of State for the Home Department in England, the Under Secretary for Scotland and the Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland be directed to the relative papers….. and that the Under Secretary in each case be informed that in view of the provisions of Section 4 (3) of the Old Age Pensions Act 1911, the board would be glad if the police could be instructed to notify the proper Pension Officer of every case in which a person who is known, or is believed, to be in receipt of a pension”