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Provincial Grand Secretary

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To Lodge Secretaries

Re: Lodge Meetings

Dear Brother Secretary

It has come to my attention that some lodges are only holding quorate meetings and abandoning meetings at the behest of the Master of the Lodge or of the Lodge Committee and not following the guidance in the book of constitutions for doing either.

Currently at the time of writing this letter there are no government restrictions regarding the number of people attending meetings at indoor locations or instructions from Grand Lodge regarding numbers attending masonic meetings

Lodges **may not** cancel any regular meeting and may only abandon a meeting if they are unable to make a quorate of 6 brethren one of which must be qualified to take the master's chair and two brethren qualified to take the wardens chairs. Summonses must be issued to all subscribing members and admission to all subscribing members in good standing and wishing to attend they may not be refused admission to a regular lodge meeting, ie. to make a meeting quorate only unless such restrictions are imposed by Government Statute or by Grand Lodge. Lodges may regulate their own proceedings and if felt appropriate may make a meeting a business meeting only and transact any regular items that must be conducted. Lodges may if felt appropriate refuse admission to visitors.

The Provincial Grand Master appreciates that the current pandemic may make some brethren reluctant to attend and these brethren should feel free to send their apologies for their non-attendance and should not feel obliged, or be put under any pressure, or indeed feel under any obligation to attend by reason of being an officer of the lodge, however, those brethren who wish to attend should be allowed to do so and made welcome.

Latest Guidance from United Grand Lodge

In advance of a change in the law and the guidance in England, please see updated guidance from the United Grand Lodge of England and Supreme Grand Chapter with regard to Lodge and Chapter meetings.

New government restrictions have been imposed in England in response to the Omicron variant. In accordance with the law and with government guidance, the United Grand Lodge of England and Supreme Grand Chapter continue to recommend that Freemasons wear face coverings at Masonic meetings, unless exempt.



Members remain encouraged to undertake a lateral flow test, available free from NHS Test and Trace, prior to attending any Masonic meeting.

From 15 December certain venues will be required to check that visitors show their NHS Covid Pass. It is not anticipated that this legal requirement will apply to venues for Masonic meetings.

Freemasons attending Masonic meetings must follow the law and must also follow any requirements imposed by their venue.

UGLE remains of the view that those lodges and chapters that wish to meet should be enabled and encouraged to do so. Notwithstanding this, no individual should be coerced into attending and members should feel free to distance during meetings should they so desire.

Should official guidance change, further advice will be forthcoming.

Yours Sincerely and Fraternally



Provincial Grand Secretary

