



The Order of the Secret Monitor
PROVINCE OF WEST YORKSHIRE



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To all the members of the Order of the Secret Monitor in the Province of West Yorkshire

Dear Brethren,

This personal letter is to re-enforce the email forwarded yesterday to all Conclave Secretaries.

You are no doubt acutely aware of and concerned regarding the current implications of the Coronavirus and how this may affect us all. It appears that this situation will continue for many weeks and will impact greatly on our Masonic activities.

Many individuals have indicated that they would wish to continue with our meetings, in a much reduced format, and this is a matter for each individual Conclave, however given the age group of our members my concern is to minimise any risk to our members and the health and wellbeing of their family and friends.

This is an unexpected and unprecedented health emergency and as such we have received advice and guidance from the Grand Secretary of Mark Masons Hall, Dr Staples at UGLE and the joint statement from The Provincial Grand Masters of Craft and Mark and the Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch within West Yorkshire (all dated 13 March).

I feel that we must present a 'united front' in how we approach this situation and as such I ask that their recommendations be implemented forthwith. These are summarised as follows:

- Members over the age of 65 and those with hypertension, heart disease, lung disease or diabetes should not attend masonic meetings for the foreseeable future.
- Masonic meetings may still go ahead at the discretion of the members but those over 65 or those with health problems should not attend.
- If a Unit wishes to change a meeting to a later date, a Dispensation will be required from the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for which no charge will be made.
- If, after issuing a summons, a meeting has to be abandoned due to insufficient attendance, a note must be entered in the Minute Book stating that 'the Regular Meeting of the Lodge on [insert date] was duly called but abandoned due to the incidence of coronavirus'.
- Anyone who would normally be attending an event or meeting in an official capacity on behalf of the Province will not now do so. This includes all Rulers, Provincial Representatives and Provincial Visitors.
- Those Conclaves scheduled to hold special events or other celebrations are encouraged to postpone these until after the current situation subsides.
- Installations as with all other meetings should be called by summons as normal but may be carried out in minimal form and without visitors or guests. Where insufficient members are in attendance to hold the meeting, it may be abandoned as per previous guidance.

Hopefully by following these guidelines we can reduce the risk to us all and when the situation improves, we can restart our Masonic activities. In the meantime, I would ask that Conclave secretaries and the Visiting Deacons contact any elderly or vulnerable member who may require help or assistance.

Please keep me and the Province up to date on any developments and I hope to see you all when the time is right.

May the Grand Supreme Ruler of all have you in His holy keeping until we meet again.

Yours in the friendship of the Order

Dave Staniforth

PGSR - West Yorkshire