

HMT Safe Harbour Statement

This document sets out guidance on how to use the Hall while minimising the risk of spreading COVID-19. Further updates regarding Festive Boards will be issued in line with developing Government and UGLE guidance.

It will be the responsibility of Individual Lodges or Other Orders to ensure that they adhere to the HMT and wider Government guidelines. Lodges and Other Orders will also need to monitor these measures to make sure they continue to protect their members.

This guidance does not supersede any legal obligations on Lodges and other Orders relating to health and safety or equalities and it is important that you continue to comply with your existing obligations, including those relating to individuals with protected characteristics.

This document contains non-statutory guidance to consider when complying with these existing obligations.

This document must be read in conjunction with the Harrogate Masonic Hall COVID-19 Risk Assessment.

The guidance and 'model' processes has been produced by the HMT COVID-19 response team to help you decide which actions to take, just as you would for other health and safety related hazards. This risk assessment has been carried out in consultation with members of the 5 Craft Lodges and other Orders as well as the Caterer.

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1. Introduction

In order to allow the re-opening of the Masonic Hall, Harrogate Masonic Trust Ltd (HMT) have undertaken a Risk Assessment to identify the physical changes that are necessary to mitigate risk. The Risk Assessment details the physical changes required to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 which include the introduction of Sanitisation Points, exclusion of certain parts of the building, and protective measures for registration.

This document provides an example through the use of 'Use Cases' of how these changes could be used by Lodges and Other Orders as part of their own ongoing Risk Mitigation strategy.

In order to provide as much information as possible HMT has included details that would support use of the building to hold a Masonic meeting based on the current Government Guidelines.

HMT has mandated that Practices and Committee meetings follow the same guidelines that are in place for regular Lodge Meetings.

For the avoidance of doubt, whilst HMT have provided 'model' processes, it will be the responsibility of the individual Craft Lodges and Other Orders to ensure that they have the processes in place to Mitigate the Risk of COVID-19 and policies for adhering to those ways of working.

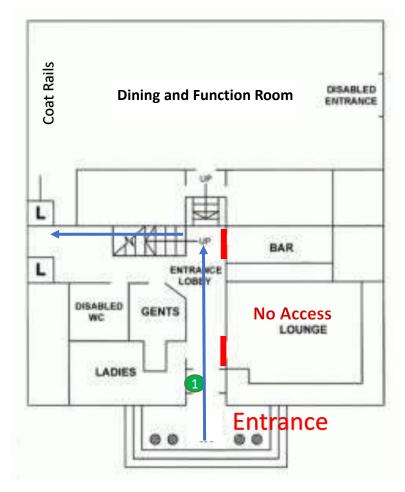
2. Statement of Key Principles

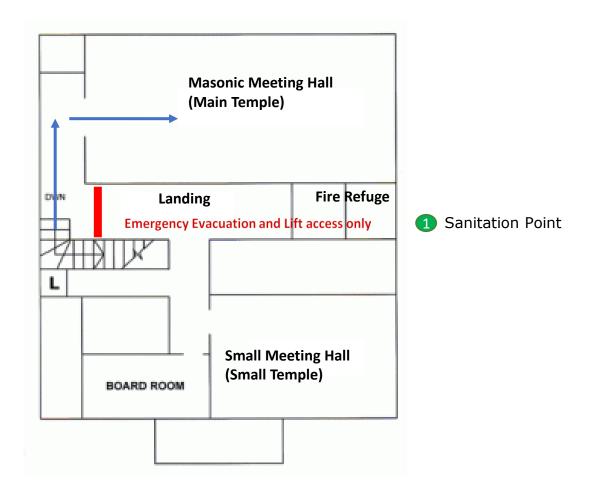
- 1. All persons attending Masonic Meetings **MUST** register their attendance in advance with the Secretary, Scribe, or nominated person, otherwise entry to the Hall will be denied.
- 2. All persons attending Masonic Meetings MUST wear a mask at all times in the building.
- 3. A Maximum of 6 people will be permitted to attend any meeting.
- 4. Lodges and Other Orders **MUST** have in place a system to check temperatures at the point of entry to the Building. (equipment provided by HMT) and undertake to deny entry to persons recording an abnormal temperature.
- 5. The person carrying out admission testing **MUST** be instructed in the use of Temperature testing equipment and Test & Trace Recording.
- 6. A record **MUST** be maintained of all persons tested for Temperature, the Result, Full Name, and a Contact number for NHS Test & Trace purposes. A copy of which is to be e-mailed to the Company Secretary after each event (secretaryhmt@outlook.com). (No details will be passed or shared except with Health Officials for Track & Trace purposes).
- 7. Subject to having a suitable mobile device, members should scan the unique Harrogate Masonic Hall NHS QR code when they arrive using their NHS COVID-19 app. This is in addition to Key Principle 6.
- 8. Persons admitted **MUST** hand sanitise. This will be available at the entrance sanitising station.
- 9. Persons transiting and circulating within the buildings MUST follow the rules for Social Distancing including the prescribed system of entry & exit.
- 10. Persons using the settles in the Temple **MUST** respect the social distancing markers denoting separation. Bags may be placed on or under the settles. Where possible plastic bags may be found useful for storage.

2. Statement of Key Principles

- 11. Persons in any rooms with individual seating MUST maintain positions as set up when entering the building.
- 12. No late comers (who MUST also be registered as attending) may be admitted unless tested as above and found temperature normal.
- 13. Where toilet facilities are used hand washing should be practiced.
- 14. The Hall **MUST** be vacated by all members by 10.00pm.
- 15. To ensure minimum touching of surfaces, set up of the Temple will be carried out immediately prior to meetings. Microphones and associated equipment are not to be used during initial re-opening.
- 16. There will be no Visitors, Raffles or Almoner Collections for the initial opening of the Hall.
- 17. Whilst this document focuses on Regular Meetings, the same principles are to be adopted for Practices and Committee meetings.
- 18. To minimise potential demand on emergency services and to prevent damage to carpets and furnishing, no naked lights or combustible material will be permitted on HMT Premises.
- 19. The HMT Drugs, Smoking and Vaping Policy operates in respect of the Hall and its immediate environments.
- 20. The Temple and Dining Hall will be laid out to comply with legislation around social distancing. As there will be limits on numbers, it will be the responsibility of Lodges to ensure that prescribed layouts are always maintained.

3. Overall Flow and control points – Entrance to Temple

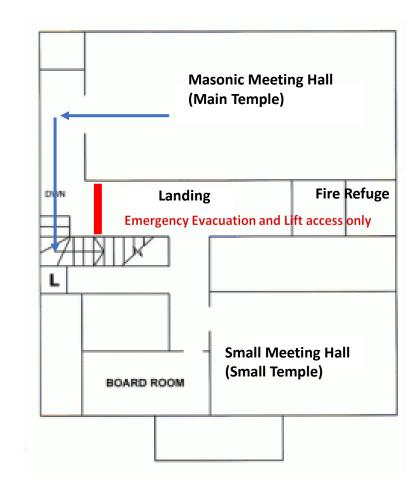


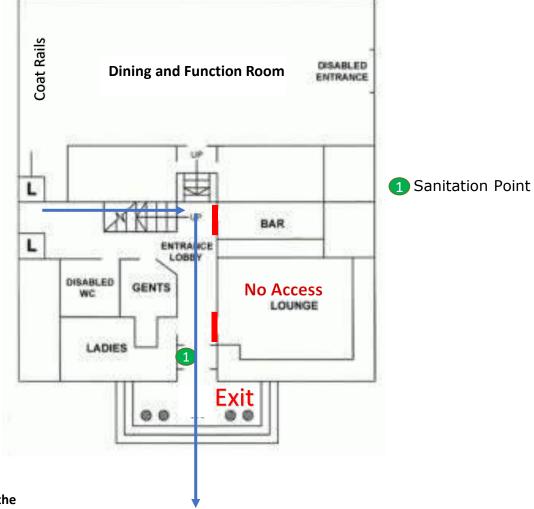


- Note 1: A reminder will be on display barring entrance to the Hall to anyone who is displaying symptoms, or who has been in contact with anyone testing positive in the previous 14 days.
- Note 2: To assist in maintaining social distancing all unnecessary rooms will be closed.
- Note 3: Clear signage will be in place throughout the premises reminding Members of social distancing measures and asking them to follow these rules.

Note 4: There will be coat rails situated just outside the Lounge.

3. Overall Flow and control points – Exit

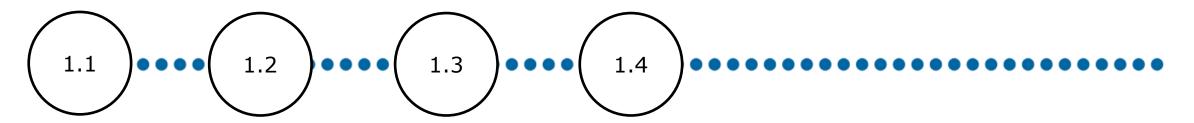




Note 1: Members will stay in their seats until instructed to leave by the DoC.

Note 2: Once instructed to leave by the DoC, Members must leave the Temple in an orderly manner, following the floor markings and maintaining social distance.

4. Use case: Prior to Leaving Home



I receive the Summons for the Meeting. You will be sent all summonses by email. This will include statements

summonses by email. This will include statements around not attending meetings when displaying symptoms etc.

Paper communications discouraged to reduce risk.

I notify the Secretary that I will attend.

You will be confirmed as attending.

Numbers will be restricted to 6 members.

I make sure I have the correct regalia for the evening.

You will have received guidance on regalia. It is advised that you use a plastic carrier bag rather than the usual case (as in the PGL AGM).

Members will be required to change in the Temple and place their plastic bag under their seat (or beside them). If Masonic Cases are used these should be placed next to the member.

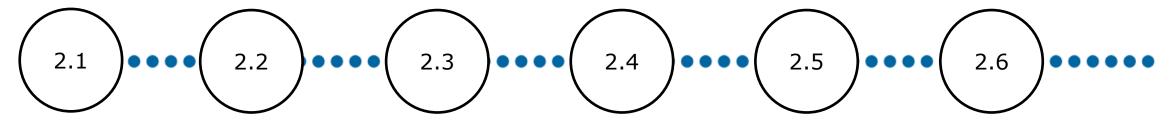
I ensure that I have my PPE (i.e. masks) with me for the evening.

Members are required to wear masks in the Building.

Members are responsible for their own PPE. There will be no provision at the Masonic Hall.

Note 1: Members are required to wear masks at all times in the building to mitigate risk. HMT will not be carrying a stock of spares.

4. Use case: Arrival at the Hall



I arrive at the Hall.

You will be required to put
on your Mask before entry.

There will be clear signage

outside the Hall explaining

what social distancing

measures are in place and

reminding Members not to

enter if they have

symptoms of COVID-19.

I enter through the Front Door where I will be Temperature checked.

You will be told when you can enter the building.

Members will be only be admitted singly (unless a 'buddy' is required).

I sanitize my hands as a condition of entry.

You will need to use the hand sanitization facilities provided. This is a

hand sanitization facilities provided. This is a condition of entry to the building.

The Entry Door will be wedged open to prevent touching.

My entry to the Hall will be recorded.

The Secretary will confirm you name is on the list of attendees.

To assist NHS Test and Trace service records will be kept of Members for 21 days. This information can be requested and could help contain clusters or outbreaks.

There will be a QR code for members who have a Mobile Phone and the NHS COVID-19 App. The QR code should be scanned.

It is recognized that not all members will be able to use this facility

There are multiple copies of the QR codes to ensure there are no delays.

I will proceed upstairs.
Once you are registered
you should proceed to the
temple ensuring that you
follow the signage to
ensure social distancing.

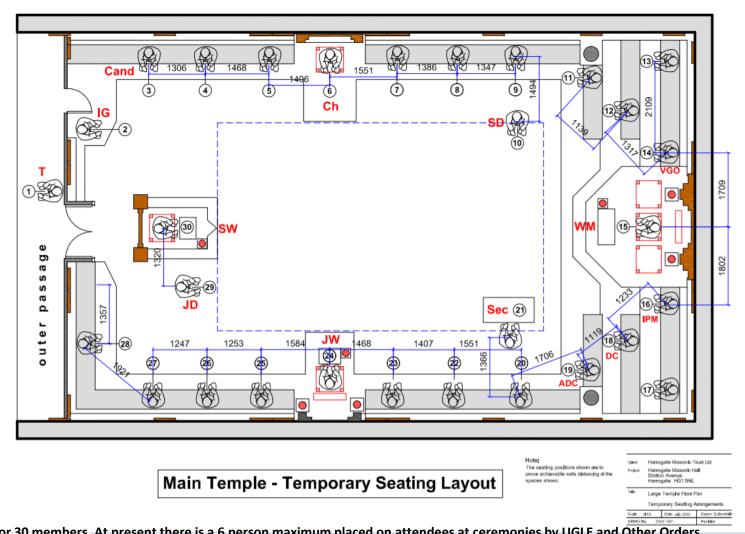
At this stage you may wish to visit the Toilets.

Note 1: Members will not be admitted if they fail the Temperature check or if they do not have a mask in place.

Note 2: As only 6 members are allowed into a meeting, a dispensation has been agreed to allow Entry into and Exit from the Front of the Building.

Note 3: Each Lodge Secretary will comply with GDPR rules relating to the possibility that their names may be shared for Test and Trace purposes.

4. Use case: Main Temple (Seating Schematic)

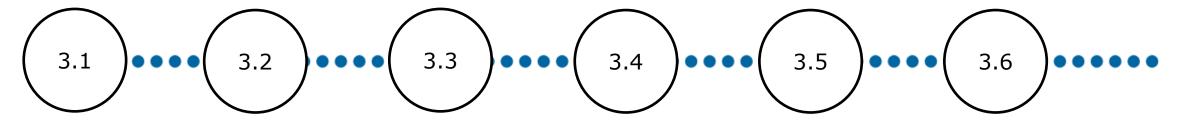


NOTE: Diagram for illustration purposes only. The current limit is for 6 persons maximum attending any meeting at the Hall.

Note 1: The above plans show seating for 30 members. At present there is a 6 person maximum placed on attendees at ceremonies by UGLE and Other Orders.

Note 2: Useable seats have tape markings.

4. Use case: Conduct in the Main Temple



I find a seat that is unoccupied and change into my regalia. Seating will be

appropriately marked showing where you can sit.

Seating has been organized for Members to be socially distanced. Once changed you should place your plastic bag under your seat.

I partake in the ceremony. Your revised role in the ceremony will have been communicated by your DC. You must not move from your station until directed by the DC.

UGLE & PGL guidance will govern conduct in meetings.

I change out of my regalia once the meeting is concluded (Ceremony is complete.)

You will be directed by the DC when to disrobe and once complete should wait instruction.

It is important that we do not leave our regalia behind when exiting the Temple.

I exit the Main Temple when directed by the DC. You will await instruction from the DC who will ensure members leave in an orderly manner.

It is important that we leave the temple in a single file and maintain our distance.

I need to use the Lift / Wheelchair lift You will remain in your seat until all other members exit at which time you will be escorted to the exit.

You (and your 'buddy' Carer / attending Brother) will be attended to once the Temple and exit routes are clear.

I descend the stairs in single file .

There is a need to maintain social distance so the Tyler will oversee traffic on exiting the Temple.

It is important that the traffic from the temple is managed.

- Note 1: Currently the ruling from UGLE is that a maximum of 6 Members attend any meeting.
- Note 2: Current guidance is that shouting or singing should not be allowed.
- Note 3: Only one nominated person (Craft) will handle the set up before and take down after the meeting.
- Note 4: Once on the first floor then all Brethren must comply with their own Lodge or Other Order COVID Plan.

4. Use case: Use of toilet facilities



I will check the toilets for availability. When you enter the toilet

When you enter the toilet you should change the available sign.

I will sanitize my hands once I have exited the toilet and flipped the available sign to vacant.

You will use the hand sanitizer.

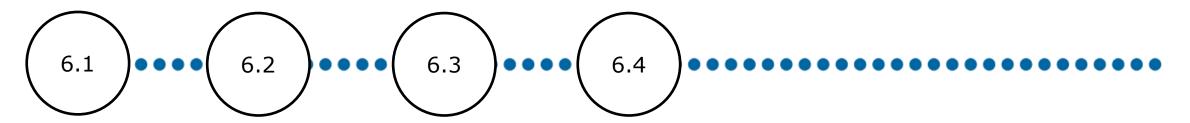
Hands to be washed and paper towels used.

You will need to sanitize your hands in the same way as when you initially entered the building.

Note 1: All three ground floor toilets, Male/Female /Accessible, will be used to ensure we have peak capacity.

Note 2: A one out and one in system will be in operation indicated by a sign.

4. Use case: Activity before, during and after the Meeting (Superintendent of Works)



The Superintendent of Works (or nominated person) will arrive on the day of the Meeting with sufficient time to set up the Temple by himself.

Only one persons should touch the items in setting up the Temple to be used in the meeting i.e. VSL, etc. (Please refer to FAQ's re other orders) After the meeting has finished the Superintendent of Works (or nominated person) will remove all material associated with the meeting and wipe down touch points.

Once all the members have left the building a safety and security check must be carried.

The building will initially be completely sanitized. It will then be checked every 30 days and re-sanitized if necessary.

Any issues associated with clearing the Temple should be notified to the HMT Secretary.

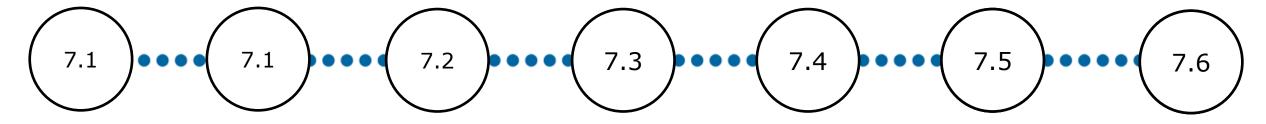
A checklist must be worked through and signed. This will include checking that all lights are off and that all doors are secure. Once completed the Temple will be ready to be set up for the next meeting.

Note 1: The HMT Drugs, Smoking and Vaping Policy govern the Hall and its environs.

Note 2: A touch point risk assessments will be completed to identify any additional requirement for the cleaning of regularly touched objects & surfaces, door handles, Microphones, bar equipment, tills, security keypads, buttons, touch screen, handrails, tables and chair arms.

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4. Use case: Positive COVID-19 test post event



Test and trace contact me to inform me I am at risk (or I test positive)

If you have attended a meeting within the timescale you should provide them with the Secretary's details

The Secretary will have records associated with who has attended meetings.

If I am tested and prove positive for COVID-19 I should inform the Secretary.

While the Track and Trace system will come into operation it is important that the Secretary can alert

The Secretary will notify Members and HMT.

members

I am contacted by my
Secretary to say I am at risk
Once a Secretary knows
that a member has been
contacted and has been to
a meeting within the
timescales, he will inform
members who were
present.

While this may be a duplication it is important that all Members are notified of any potential risk as soon as possible.

I follow the Government Guidelines regarding Isolation

You will act in line with the latest Government Guidelines

HMT will be informed of the incident

Whilst a Cleaning regime is in place after each meeting, HMT may initiate a further clean of the building.

HMT will temporarily close the building and place a ban on all activity until remedial or directed actions are undertaken. HMT Secretary will inform all other Secretaries and Scribes.

It may be that some members of Lodges due to meet immediately after an identified case may wish to not attend HMT would work with the Local Authority.

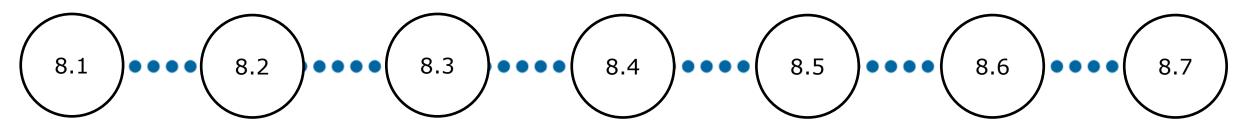
We would work with the Local Authority on the measures required to bring the Hall back into operation.

Once the Temporary suspension (if necessary) has been lifted HMT Secretary will inform all Secretaries.

Note 1: Members who are contacted by Test and Trace need to provide them with their Secretaries contact details if they have attended meetings within the prescribed period.

Note 2: Secretaries will notify HMT of the Member contact.

4. Use case: Members with sight or hearing impairment or difficulty with walking



I book my place for the meeting noting that I may need assistance
There will be a process in place to register when confirming attendance.

There may be a requirement to change seating arrangements and ensure appropriate support is in place.

I enter the Building (Note 4)
You may be asked to use a
different entrance. If any
of the external handrails at
the front of the building are
used, they will be sanitised
after use.

You will be met by a member who will check you in. Once in the building you will follow the instructions in the Covid plan.

I need to use my wheelchair, or I have difficulty in walking. (Note 5)

You will be assisted with the check in process within the dining room. (The Brother and his Carer/accompanying brother will be signed in within the hall)

I will be met by a member (Note 5)

On entry I will sanitise my hand alongside my carer / accompanying brother.

I will take my place in the queue. (Note 5)

Once checked in you will be directed to the accessible lift sited at the far end of the room.

I Need to use the lifts.

There are two lifts within the hall to be used by wheelchair users only. One is sited in the Dining and Function room to enable movement between the Function Room and the ground floor.

The other lift is situated on the ground floor adjacent to the Function Room lift and at the end of the toilet corridor. This lift enables movement between the ground floor and first floor. I Need to visit the toilets.

A visit to the accessible WC will require that the door is included in the total building clean. On exiting the WC hands must be sanitised before using the next lift

- Note 1: A 'buddy system' will be in place and will be organized by the Lodge prior to the meeting.
- Note 2: The Lodge Secretary/Scribe/Recorder will add to the Summons "if any member or guest who may have any difficulty with sight or walking please notify the Secretary when confirming their booking".
- Note 3: The member or guest may or may not require assistance. If any assistance may be required, it must comply with any current government guidelines in place at the time.
- Note 4: Sight or hearing impairment, or difficulty with walking.
- Note 5: Non ambulant or wheelchair user.
- Note 6: Cleaning on lifts will be an integral part of the ongoing cleaning and sanitising regime.

Appendix 1: Resumption-Letter from Province



This letter is being copied to your <u>Lodge Secretary for them to send to every Lodge member</u> by email or hard copy. Please ensure that this happens as quickly as possible

7th July 2020

Dear Worshipful Master,

Resumption of Masonic meetings

You will have seen the announcement from UGLE that the current suspension of Masonic meetings will end on Friday, July 17th.

This is of course very welcome news but the resumption has a variety of conditions attached and above all we must do everything that we can to ensure the health and safety of our members is paramount.

In essence the removal of the suspension gives permission for Lodges to meet, it does not require them to do so nor does it place an expectation on any members to attend meetings if they are uncomfortable whatever position or office they hold. Masonic meetings are important to us all they are not essential.

Each Lodge must decide whether or not it wishes to meet and every Lodge member will have to make an individual decision as to whether they choose to attend any meetings held. Not holding meetings or not attending due to the current health situation will not be detrimental to any Lodge or Brother.

These decisions must be informed by some or all of the following:

- Government guidance on restrictions including any national and local lockdown rules which apply either to the place of meetings or to a member's place of residence
- · Government and NHS advice to people in vulnerable or high-risk categories
- Guidance from UGLE regarding what aspects of Masonic meetings cannot take place and revisions to our ceremonies which are required to meet social distancing and other requirements (attached)
- Information from the Masonic Hall where meetings would be held setting out the
 actions they have taken to comply with the relevant Covid-secure guidelines issued by
 the Government to make their premises and procedures safe for meetings to take
 place

All of the above will undoubtedly remain flexible and will change either by tightening or relaxation in response to the developing situation locally and nationally.

There are still many unanswered questions about how we will eventually return to whatever the new normal will be and we will be working hard over the coming weeks to answer those questions to the best of our ability and in the light of prevailing guidance. You will find these answers in the Q&A section on our website www.wrprovince.org.uk but if you have a specific question that you can't find there please send it to advice@wrprovince.org.uk

In closing for now I want to again quote the opening point of the Grand Secretary's statement announcing the ending of the suspension:

"At all times the judicious use of common sense is to be encouraged."

Please stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

R.W. Bro David S Pratt Provincial Grand Master

cc: Lodge Secretary for distribution to ALL Lodge members

Appendix 2: Resumption-Letter from United Grand Lodge







A joint statement from:

The Grand Secretary, United Grand Lodge of England The Grand Scribe E, Supreme Grand Chapter of England The Grand Secretary at Mark Masons' Hall

General Guidance for the Resumption of Masonic Meetings

- 1. At all times, the judicious use of common sense is to be encouraged.
- Prevailing Government guidance (UK, Wales or Scotland, as appropriate) must be followed, in addition to local rules from Masonic Hall companies etc.
- Disposable/medical gloves should not be worn. They are far more likely to spread the virus (if any is present) unless used correctly as they are in medical circumstances by trained professionals. Regular handwashing and avoiding touching your face are far more effective.
- In the absence of definitive Government guidance, members who wish to wear face masks during meetings are to be allowed to do so.
- Nobody, particularly elderly or vulnerable members, should feel coerced into attending meetings – irrespective of their office.
- 6. The current, absolute, maximum number of members allowed to physically attend a meeting in England will be 30 but different limits may apply elsewhere. This limit will be determined by Government guidance and by the regulations set by the masonic hall or other meeting venue as judged by, for example, the dimensions of meeting spaces, relative ventilation etc.
- In the event of a meeting being oversubscribed, the Lodge/Chapter/or equivalent Unit should decide who attends and should do so equitably.
- Members who are unwell or have recently been unwell and those who are under advice to self-isolate must not attend meetings.
- 9. For the time being, there is to be no singing in meetings.
- 10. There are to be no Festive Boards after meetings. Presently, guidance does not allow for mass dining but as soon as the guidance changes to allow this, dining may then be offered.

Dr David Staples FRCP

Chief Executive & Grand Secretary United Grand Lodge of England

Grand Scribe E Supreme Grand Chapter of England Ryan A Williams Grand Secretary Mark Masons' Hall

Appendix 3: Resumption- Letter to Directors and Trustees



7th July 2020

This letter should be shared with all your Masonic Hall Management Company Directors/Trustees. It relates only to the resumption of Masonic meetings and has no bearing on any other commercial activities that may take place in your premises nor does it alter or detract from any of your duties under statute or regulation.

Dear Sir,

Resumption of Masonic meetings

You should have seen the announcement from UGLE that the current suspension of Masonic meetings will end on Friday, July 17^{th} but for the avoidance of doubt I attach a copy of the joint statement issued on Monday, July 6^{th} .

This is of course very welcome news but the resumption has a variety of conditions attached and above all everything must be done to ensure that the health and safety of our members is paramount.

I am writing to you on behalf of the Masonic family in this Province and the Heads of other Orders are united in our plans to move forward.

In essence the removal of the suspension gives permission for Lodges to meet, it does not place a requirement on them to do so. Nor does it place an expectation on any Masonic meeting place that they should make premises available unless and until they can comply with national and local guidance, directives and the law. Masonic meetings are important to us all they are not essential.

As a Province we will do whatever we can to support you moving forward but I must emphasise that any and all liability for the decisions you make and the actions you take sit firmly with you in law.

Each Masonic Hall Board/Management Committee must decide whether or not it is able to safely offer its facilities for masonic meetings and also decide what specific conditions Lodges and Chapters need to adopt when using the facilities. When you have made these decisions, it will still be for Lodges and Chapters to determine whether they wish to meet and up to every individual member whether they feel able to attend any meetings.

It will be necessary that you carry out a COVID - 19 Risk assessment and put in place all necessary measures to ensure that your facilities are COVID SECURE. Sharing the results of this risk assessment with the Lodges and Chapters which use your facilities is essential and will better enable the brethren of those Lodges to make their own assessment as to whether they will feel safe to return.

It will be essential that meeting places, Lodges and Chapters and their members work together to ensure that the resumption of Masonic meetings moves forward safely and in the best interests of all concerned.

Your decision-making should as a minimum be informed by all of the following:

- Government guidance on restrictions including any national and local lockdown rules which apply from time to time
- Any advice and guidance issued by your insurers, especially in respect of public indemnity cover
- Guidance from UGLE regarding what aspects of Masonic meetings cannot take place as outlined in their document entitled "Masonic Halls – Centres of Excellence" which can be accessed here CLICK HERE

Some of the above will remain flexible and subject to change either by tightening or relaxation in response to the developing situation locally and nationally.

There are still many unanswered questions about how we will eventually return to whatever the new normal will be and we will be working hard over the coming weeks to answer those questions to the best of our ability and in the light of prevailing guidance. You will find these answers in the Q&A section on our website www.wrprovince.org.uk but if you have a specific question that you can't find there please send it to advice@wrprovince.co.uk

We have also already invited you to join a Masonic Halls Mutual Aid Group which we are facilitating and I am delighted that many of you have already chosen to do so and we have received positive feedback on its usefulness. To those who have not yet decided to join you may wish to reconsider this. Please contact the Provincial Grand Secretary mick dyson@wrorrogines.com

In closing I want to quote from the final paragraph of the letter sent by The Grand Secretary at Mark Master Masons Hall:

"Returning to our Masonic labours won't be easy nor will it happen overnight. This announcement marks the start of a long and probably difficult journey back to a new normality but with a common purpose at the heart of our intentions, we will succeed in rebuilding".

Please stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

R.W. Bro David S Pratt Provincial Grand Master

Appendix 4: Resumption- Letter from HMT to Secretaries

HMT - Resumption Letter - FINAL 01 - 11 07 20

Harrogate Masonic Trust Ltd.

(Registered Office & Company No. 230251) Masonic Hall, Station Avenue, Harrogate, HG1 5NE

11 July 2020

Dear Secretary,

Subject: HMT responsibilities and Resumption Planning

You will recall that I wrote to you on 5 and 30 June 2020 to outline the current position in regard to HMT taking the lead on developing protocols and processes to facilitate an effective and efficient resumption of Masonic business. I also outlined the scope of works being undertaken during the suspension period and the annual August closure.

I have no doubt that you will have seen the letter issued on 3 July 2020 by Grand Lodge titled "General Guidance for the Resumption of Masonic Meetings". This was followed by a further letter from Grand Lodge on 6 July 2020 removing Masonic suspension from 17 July 2020. The letters set out guidance to Masonic Hall management and to Craft Lodges and Other Orders. On 7 July 2020 Provincial Lodge issued two letters, complementing those of Grand Lodge, one to Masonic Hall management and the other to Masters and Secretaries for circulation to their members. While this correspondence is in some parts prescriptive and in other parts advisory, all the information is critical in the process of resuming from Masonic suspension.

The HMT Board are clear that it is their responsibility to undertake a risk assessment and identify the measures required to manage the risk of COVID-19. We have already been determining the processes necessary to ensure that we have in place the necessary measures, so far as is reasonably possible or practical, to reduce the possibility of coronavirus COVID-19 infection from any activity at the Hall.

The HMT Executive have been looking at resumption matters for the last few weeks and our work on COVID-19 Secure processes is well under way with a DRAFT V.3 of the necessary measures being considered by the HMT Executive on 10 July 2020. Each DRAFT has improved on the previous version, incorporating latest guidance, and we are close to producing a FINAL version. Following a Full HMT Board meeting during July this FINAL version will be circulated to all Masonic orders meeting at the Hall to inform and consult on the planned measures. As there is no monopoly on good ideas or suggestions to improve the measures and processes, we ennourage these to be sent to us for consideration.

During the Masonic suspension there has been a great deal of work to ensure that the Hall is in full Masonic splendour for resumption. Most of that work is completed, however, some will not be completed until the end of July or during August, especially installing COVID-19 secure measures. As the Hall cannot be re-opened until this work has been satisfactorily completed a resumption of Masonic activity is not likely to be, at the earliest, before 1 September 2020. Depending on changes to guidance and progress on completing the measures this date may have to be further delayed.

When the Hall does re-open it is a matter for each Lodge or Other Order, not HMT, to consider whether or not, and when, they wish to accept the HMT planned levels of risk mitigation and resume activity. I am requesting that you survey your members on their willingness to resume their Masonic activities at Harrogate Masonic Hall, and, if a member is unwilling in the short term, when would they consider resuming their Masonic activities. If you could provide this information to me it would help indicate the level of demand in the short and longer tem.

I should also point out that each Lodge and Other Order will be responsible for implementing and complying with the final agreed HMT COVID-19 measures and will need to look at how those will impact upon their meetings. Matters regarding ritual are not a matter for HMT and advice is being provided by Grand Lodge and respective governing bodies on those matters.

I am sure, like me, that you are looking forward to again enjoying Freemasonry. Please be assured that HMT are working speedily, but carefully, to ensure that this is accomplished.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

Michael Baxter QPM Chairman Harrogate Masonic Trust Ltd.

Appendix 5: Statement of Works

No	Title	Description	Materials
1	Guidance Boards	Board at entrance reminding members not to enter if they are displaying symptoms. Boards placed throughout Hall reminding members to respect social distancing. Boards to show responsible person on duty and process for reporting any breaches.	Laminated signage
2	Secretaries Table	Sanitisation station and temperature check.	Suitable devices
3	Temple Seating	All the allowed seating points in the Temple to be labelled.	Sticky tape on seats to be used.
4	Toilets	Indicators on doors to ensure that a one in one out process is adhered to.	Sliding indicator
5	Sanitisation Stations	Two stations need to be set up with Hand Gel and Wipes. Station 1: Immediately inside the door when entering the building. Station 2: Outside the Gents Toilets to allow for hands to be sanitised after using facilities.	Two stations with associated Sanitisation Equipment
6	Exclusion ropes	Rope barriers need to be in place barring entrance to the Bar and also to the landing. This would also have a sign.	Ropes, fixings and associated signage.

Appendix 6: Outstanding Issues

No	Title	Description
1	Any cleaning requirement both between and during Meetings (to be confirmed)	Options currently being investigated. What, if any, cleaning is carried out after the meeting is finished to ensure that standards are met. Do touch points and toilets need sanitising/ wiping while members are present in the building.
2	Contactless payment only	The risk associated with Chip and Pin seems excessive although there may be members that this excludes?
3	Positive Test	Once notified of an infection would the Hall be immediately closed. If so would re-opening be based on time and cleaning regimes. (HMT would also take advice from Local Public Health Authorities prior to re-opening).
4	Policy	How do we deal with someone who turns up with symptoms other than turn them away?
5	Policy	Containment and 'clean up' procedures for breaches of protocols.
6	Procedure	Procedure for dealing with an individual, staff or attendee, exhibiting Covid-19-related symptoms.
7	Reporting	Reporting and recording procedures for breaches of Hall/Building protocols or legal stipulations.

Appendix 7: Demographics

	Age	18-24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 69	70 +	Total
Yorkshire West Riding		1242	9055	15950	27768	34605	80560		169180
1001 Harrogate & Claro		0	3	7	7	10	10	18	55
4404 Harlow		2	5	7	5	13	6	12	50
7659 The Spa Lodge		0	3	1	7	12	0	16	39
2695 Doric Lodge		0	0	1	9	9	6	17	42
9444 Linton Lodge		0	2	2	6	9	7	17	43
8087 Harrogate and District Lodge of Installed Masters		0	0	0	0	10	7	45	62
1001 Harrogate & Claro Chapter		0	0	0	3	12	6	22	43
7659 The Spa Chapter		1	3	8	17	18	9	16	72
213 De Ros Preceptory of Knights Templar		0	0	0	6	9	8	13	36
165 Red Cross		0	0	0	3	3	8	8	22
355 Rose Croix		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Appendix 8: Festive Board Current Guidance

NO FESTIVE BOARDS

Many questions have been asked by Masonic Halls with regards to the advice from UGLE <u>regarding Festive</u> Boards after Lodge meetings as contained in the General Guidance for the Resumption of Masonic Meetings issued on the 6th July.

10. There are to be no Festive Boards after meetings. Presently, guidance does not allow for
mass dining but as soon as the guidance changes to allow this, dining may then be offered.

I have obtained the following legal opinion from UGLE on which they base the guidance.

The question is whether or not the government guidance permits festive boards. If the guidance does not then hosting festive boards could invalidate their (Masonic Halls) public liability insurance, expose them to litigation from employees or volunteers (and hypothetically from users, but this is unlikely), cause trading standards to temporarily shut them down or the local authority to suspend or remove their alcohol license. For these reasons if the management of a Hall allow it to open in breach of the guidelines then that management may not be acting in their Hall's best interests. It also has potential reputational consequences for the Hall and for Freemasonry, locally and nationally.

The current government guidance is explicit that groups of people must not dine together except where they are within their 2 household/bubble party. See, for example the guidance for businesses:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close-guidance

In particular this part:

People should only visit a restaurant in their household groups (or support bubbles where an adult who lives alone or with dependent children, can spend time with one other household indoors), or with one other household, or with up to 5 other people outdoors.

Similarly the guidance specifically for catering establishments (including for "social and similar clubs operating as bars and restaurants" and "similar venues") repeats the above extract at paragraph 2.2 in the text and again in the bullet points.

 $\label{lem:https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/restaurants-offering-takeaway-or-delivery/#takeaways-2-1$

A lodge which gathers for a meal together is breaching the guidance (unless all of the attendees are in the same 2 household/bubble).

We are hopeful that this will change soon.

Donald Taylor - Director of Legal Services- 10th July 2020 AM Dyson - ProvGSec/Scribe E

Appendix 9: Masonic 'Equipment'

ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT AT MEETINGS

Looking at the changes to Ritual as circulated by UGLE/SGC it would seem that the following appear s to the current situation

The instructions are that only one person to touch/handle all individual items of Regalia or Furniture which should be cleaned immediately after each meeting.

Item	Requirement	Comments				
CRAFT						
VSL	Yes- B of C	To be open and closed by same person				
Square and Compasses	Yes- B of C	To be placed and removed by same person.				
Tracing Boards	No	Not all Lodges use these anyway so there is no requirement for them.				
Deacons Wands	No	These can be dispensed with but if not must be cleaned by the individuals using them immediately before being put away				
Warrants	Yes- B of C	Se Answer in the Q & A' on the Provincial Website.				
B of C, Prov and Lodge By Laws	Yes- B of C	However, if the Secretary has a copy they could remain with him on his desk.				
Working Tools	Yes, as per UGLE	Suggestion that they are all laid out on a separate table by the person handling the equipment and removed by him at the end.				
Officers collars	No	Officer collars should not be used.				
Gavels	No	They are not required, but if it is decided they are to be used they should be cleaned immediately after use by the person using them.				
Personal Regalia	Yes	This is put on in Lodge room and regalia cases kept at the side of the brother				
Alms Collection Dish	No- As per UGLE instructions	Alms collections in the normal form must not happen and Brethren should make a donation via bank transfer if at all possible				
Cable of Tow	No- As per UGLE instructions	Specifically referred to in Regalia amendments				
Hoodwink	No- As per UGLE instructions	As above but 'Sunglasses' should be used instead.				
EA Apron	Yes- As per UGLE instructions	But should be put on by candidate himself				
Royal Arch		New York and the second				
VSL	Yes-	This should be open when the Principals enter as per Instruction of SGC.				

Appendix 10: Risk Mitigation

No	Description	When used	Details				
1	Building Sanitisation.	Initial deep clean followed by complete building sanitisation.	Overall Sanitisation of Hall which gives longer term protection (30 days +). This will be checked after 30 days and any additional Sanitisation identified and actioned.				
2	Sanitisation Stations	When entering and moving around the building.	Individual stations containing a solution that complies to latest Standards and give 24 hrs of protection.				
3	Handwashing	When using the toilets	Paper towels in place and no Hand dryer.				
4	Side be side seating	In the main temple	Minimum spacing is currently 1.2m or greater. In line with guidance this is mitigated by side by side seating where 2m is not possible.				
5	Use of masks (PPE)	At all times within the building.	Members are required to wear PPE at all times.				
6	Signage	When entering the building and at key potential pinch points.	Reminding Members not to enter if displaying symptoms and also regular signage throughout the building reinforcing social distancing				

Appendix 11: Resumption-Rule of 6





14 September 2020

Brethren and Companions,

Following a meeting of the Craft Rulers and the Standing Committee of the Board of General Purposes, and in consultation with the Royal Arch Rulers and the President of the Committee of General Purposes, it has been decided to restrict English Lodge and Chapter meetings to no more than six attendees. This is in response to the new laws which come into force today, Monday 14 September.

Larger meetings in Covid-19 Secure venues are permitted by the new laws, and this decision was not taken lightly, but it was felt that it would send entirely the wrong message to our members, and to the public, if Lodge and Chapter meetings of over six people took place at this time. This position will be kept under review and further measures will be announced shortly. UGLE and SGC remain committed to following appropriate official guidance, and to be seen to do so, whilst allowing individuals, todges and Chapters to decide what is right for their own particular circumstances.

UGLE also now advises that face coverings are worn at all meetings, even though the law does not currently require this. For the avoidance of doubt those who are exempt under the law from wearing face coverings in shops are not expected to wear them at meetings.

The, admittedly small, good news is that if they wish, the six or fewer who attend a meeting may now dine together.

This message applies only to Provinces in England. In Wales, legislation still prevents any Masonic Meetings from taking place at this time.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

VW Bro/E Comp David Staples Grand Secretary/Grand Scribe E

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