



Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons Province of Cornwall



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03/12/2020

Dear Bro. Secretaries and Scribes,

New Coronavirus Tier Restrictions

Following the approval by parliament of the new Coronavirus Tier Restrictions and communications from the Grand Secretary, I am able to provide you with further direction as to the impact these measures will have on masonic activities.

With effect from 02-12-2020, the general suspension of masonic meetings, introduced at the beginning of November, have been lifted. Meetings may resume subject to the directions given overleaf and having regard to the level of risk within our Province.

We recognise, that many if not all of our Masonic Halls in Cornwall are closed and likely to remain so until at least the first quarter of 2021, we also learnt from our members survey, that the majority of our members understandably felt an unease about a return to meetings until the risk had reduced significantly. As you will be aware there are still options open to lodges to hold either Virtual Business Meetings or Social Meetings via (Zoom/video conference) during the period in which they are unable to meet, the details of which have been previously circulated and are available from the Secretaries section of the Provincial website.

As always should you have any questions or require further guidance, please contact me at any time.

With fraternal regards and best wishes.

Simon

S J Trevains 

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Tier 1

Masonic meetings fall within the 'permitted organised gatherings' exemption in the new legislation which means that they may only be held in Masonic Centres or on other premises permitted by law i.e. a function room in a members' club or hotel.

Those responsible for organising such meetings, as well as those who manage the premises where they take place, are obliged to conduct a risk assessment and take all reasonable steps to minimise the risk of transmission of the virus.

Consequently, meetings may resume subject to the Rule of Six which, for the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall, does include the Tyler (or equivalent).

Tier 2

The new law also allows masonic meetings to be held in areas falling within Tier 2 as 'permitted organised gatherings' described above. Local Heads of Order may exercise their judgement as to whether to allow meetings under Tier 2 restrictions to take place within their jurisdiction

To minimise the risk of transmission of the virus, the maximum permitted attendance at a meeting is Six (to include the Tyler (or equivalent)).

Tier 3

The restrictions on people from separate households meeting indoors means that in areas falling within Tier 3, masonic meetings cannot take place and should be suspended.

Movement between areas subject to different Tiers

Individuals who live in Tier 3 areas are not permitted to attend masonic meetings in Tier 1 or Tier 2 areas.