

Brethren I hope this finds you, your family and friends all well.

Under normal circumstances, at this time of year, the Lodges and Brethren are thinking about starting a new Masonic season. Unfortunately this, as you are aware, is not normal circumstances and with this in mind I feel that it is unlikely that any Masonic meetings will be allowed to be held this year. This of course is dependent on advice from the Scottish Government. The recent update from the Grand Master Mason has indicated that Grand Lodge are in the process re-scheduling there dates, for the remainder of this year, to 2021.

The cancellation of Lodge Regular and Special Meetings will affect the following:- Installations, A.G.M's, Nomination and Election Meetings, Anniversaries, to name a few, as well as Annual Visits from the P. G. L. appropriate dispensations, to re-schedule cancelled meetings, will be granted when the occasion arises and applied for.

Although the Annual Visits, by the P. G. L., will be cancelled the P. G. Secretary and P. G. Treasurer will liaise with the Lodge Secretaries and Treasurers to arrange a suitable date to audit the Lodge books.

As it is likely that there will be no Lodge Installations this year I would recommend that all Lodges consider that the existing R. W. M.. and Office-bearers remain until the next Regular Installation date, assuming that this is agreeable to all concerned.

Finally, I would like to remind all the Lodges in the Province they must ensure that they adhere to the Scottish Government and Grand Lodge guidelines once it becomes possible to hold Lodge Meetings and to ensure that the proper Risk Assessments have been completed and that all Government and Grand Lodge guidelines are being followed, it will be a requirement for the Provincial Grand Master to approve all meetings beforehand. I also anticipate a possible 'phased start' to Regular Lodge meetings.

As has been communicated by Grand Lodge of Scotland, dated 10th July, the United Grand Lodge of England issued an "Operation Kick Start" document containing useful information and a similar document will be issued by the Grand Lodge of Scotland at the appropriate time.

To sum up,

- Lodges should not expect to hold any meetings for the remainder of this year, again subject to advice from the Scottish Government and Grand Lodge.
- Lodge Annual Visits cancelled for the remainder of this year.
- Lodge books to be audited, at a date suitable to Lodge and P.G.L. administrative Office-bearers.
- Please adhere to Scottish Government guidelines when considering opening the lodge/bar for small social events.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

Gordon W. S. Sewell
R. W. P. G. M.