



# THE GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS

of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas

## GRAND SECRETARY'S OFFICE

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Mark Masons' Hall  
86 St. James's Street  
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13 September 2020

### **To: Members of all Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall in England**

Dear Sir and Brother

#### **Changes to the rules relating to social gatherings in England and what this means for masonic meetings**

The introduction of new Covid-19 safety rules today will significantly impact our daily lives. Since the announcement of these changes last week, we have been working closely with the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) to understand what this means for us.

Whilst larger meetings in Covid-secure venues are permitted by the new laws, it would send entirely the wrong message to our members and the public, if meetings of over six people took place at this time. Mark Masons' Hall and UGLE are committed to following appropriate official guidance, and to be seen to do so, whilst allowing individuals and their Units to decide what is right for their own circumstances.

I can therefore confirm that, in response to the new safety rules, meetings in England of all Units belonging to the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall are to be restricted to no more than six with immediate effect.

This announcement strikes an important balance between maintaining and protecting the safety of our members and enabling those who wish to meet, to do so within the framework of the new rules.

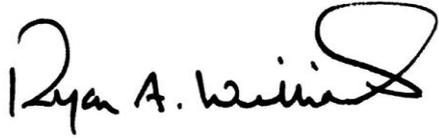
The virtual business meeting scheme set up in June has been a great success. It isn't a substitute for getting together with your fellow Brethren in a Lodge Room, but it is enabling Units in all our Orders to transact important administrative business and keep Brethren in touch with one another. If your Unit hasn't yet held one of these meetings, I would encourage the members to consider it.

It is vital that we do all we can to keep freemasonry ticking over so, later this week, we will be announcing changes to the virtual business meeting scheme which will further enhance its usefulness in the current circumstances.

The safety of our members is paramount and that is why our earlier guidance about the wearing of face coverings in masonic meetings remains in place and should always be adhered to. Those who are exempt under the law are not expected to wear them.

This update applies only to Units in England. In Wales, legislation still prevents any masonic meetings from taking place currently while in Scotland meetings have been suspended for the time being.

With fraternal regards and best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan A. Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial 'R' and 'W'.

R.W.Bro. Ryan A Williams, P.G.J.W.  
Grand Secretary