

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF LINCOLNSHIRE

R W Bro Stephen C. Hallberg **RAMGR**
Provincial Grand Master



17th July 2020
10.00 hours

LIFTING OF MASONIC SUSPENSION & RESUMPTION OF MASONIC ACTIVITIES

Dear Sir & Brother Mark Mason

You will have seen the announcement from the Grand Lodge of Mark Mater Masons recently that the current suspension of Masonic meetings will end today- 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 regardless of their position or office. 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. 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 the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons regarding what aspects of Mark and RAM meetings are able to take place and revisions to our ceremonies which are required to meet social distancing and other requirements- further details will be forthcoming from Province in the near future.
- Information from the Masonic Hall/ Centre 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. IF you have a specific question please send it to our Provincial Secretary Steve Roberts whose contact details are on page 357 of the 2019/20 Blue Book .

Remember ; at all times the judicious use of common sense is to be encouraged.

Stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely & fraternally,

Stephen C. Hallberg

Provincial Grand Master