

APRIL 2020

We Care

PROVINCIAL GRAND
ALMONERS OFFICE



PROVINCE OF HAMPSHIRE
& ISLE OF WIGHT

Welfare Support during the period of Masonic cessation

Although the UGLE has determined that Masonic activity would cease for a period of four months, this does not mean that the support for Masons, widows or their families would also cease. On the contrary a system is in place whereby support is readily available for those who find themselves in need.

Initially a request for support should be directed to the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) by either telephoning or going online. Although personal visits to obtain information in support of the applications are no longer being made, a telephone call will be received from a member of the Advice and Support Team, and details recorded on the grant application database.

This process will then enable the Provincial Almoner, or a member of his team, to look at the application and if necessary, provide immediate financial support from the Provincial charity fund (MCT).

Although the Provincial Almoner's office is not being staffed at the moment, messages can be left on the answerphone, as these are constantly being accessed by the PGA staff.

In order to further assist a number of the most commonly asked questions, together with the responses are attached

Q: How do I obtain financial support for brethren of my Lodge affected by the Coronavirus pandemic?

The following updated process has been instigated by the MCF with regard to access to support from the Charity, for ALL instances, including Coronavirus.

New applicants should be directed to contact the MCF via help@mcf.org.uk or 0800 035 60 90. This will enable the MCF to prioritise cases.

Special provisions have also been made by the Provincial MCT (Hants & IoW Masonic Charitable Trust) for those directly affected by Coronavirus. Any such petition must be able to clearly identify the Coronavirus as the cause of the hardship.

All Area Almoners have been issued with the necessary application forms and are fully conversant with the grant application process and they should be the first point of call.

The MCF and the MCT remains fully available for all non-Coronavirus related applications for Financial, Health, or Family support. The MCT is able to make one-off grants within a much shorter timescale, though they will be one-off. In the vast majority of cases it is expected that a petition to the MCF should also be made. All cases will be handled via telephone.