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Dear Sir and Brother,

**Lifting of the Provincial Suspension of Masonic Activity in Essex**

You are all no doubt aware of the Government's intention to relax the Covid-19 regulations over the next two months. Masonic activity and meetings are obviously affected by this route out of lockdown. The Province of Essex has been subject to a local suspension of all Masonic activity since late last year.

In recent days, The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons has given authority for meetings to resume in the Provinces and Districts from the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 however, the lifting of the local suspensions that are in place is purely a matter for the local Provincial Grand Master to consider after taking account of his Provinces circumstances.

After due consideration of all circumstances the suspension of Masonic meetings and activity within Essex will remain in place after May 17<sup>th</sup> but will be lifted at midnight on the **20<sup>th</sup> June 2021**. The proposed lifting of the suspension will be subject to further review and to any Government advice and regulation that may come into force before then.

Attached with this notice is a guidance sheet from the ProvGSec which hopefully gives you the information and guidance that you require to begin planning your first face to face meetings in many months. The one important point to note is that all the first meetings for any unit must be an Installation Meeting.

We do understand that some Lodges that were due to meet between May 17<sup>th</sup> and June 21<sup>st</sup> may be disappointed with this decision especially as their next meeting may be some months away, however with this early notice plans can be put in place to hold those meetings immediately after the 20<sup>th</sup> June as the time constraints imposed by Rule 122 (iii) in the Book of Constitutions has been waived.

Brethren, no doubt there will be obstacles to overcome in getting back to meetings, some of our centres may not be ready to open as soon as we would like, dining may be an issue at some centres, however nothing is insurmountable, working together we can achieve much.

We must all be understanding of Brethren who are not yet ready to return to meetings and no-one should be pressurised or coerced into attending any meeting, everyone will return when they are ready to do so. It has been a long difficult road to reach this point and no doubt we are all looking forward to enjoying each other's company once again.

John