



BY-LAWS

of the

Provincial Grand Lodge of the Metropolitan Area

«DATE»

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BY-LAWS

of the
Provincial Grand Lodge of the Metropolitan Area

The following By-Laws of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Metropolitan Area shall take effect from «**DATE**» and all other By-Laws hitherto in force are hereby repealed.

Nothing within these By-laws shall contradict or conflict with the Laws and Constitutions of the Grand Loge of Ireland, but if any conflict exists, the Grand Lodge Laws shall apply.

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<i>Define and remove all instances of «DATE»</i>	
<i>Define and remove «PANTONE SHADE»</i>	
<i>Define list of Lodges in By-Law 12</i>	
<i>Define list of Lodges in By-Law 27</i>	
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1. Constitution

The Provincial Grand Lodge of the Metropolitan Area shall consist of the following:

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master,
The Right Worshipful Provincial Deputy Grand Master,
Right Worshipful Provincial Assistant Grand Masters,
The Very Worshipful Provincial Senior Grand Warden,
The Very Worshipful Provincial Junior Grand Warden,
The Very Worshipful Provincial Grand Treasurer,
The Very Worshipful Provincial Grand Registrar,
The Very Worshipful Provincial Grand Secretary,
Very Worshipful Provincial Grand Directors of Ceremonies,
Very Worshipful Provincial Grand Chaplains,
The Worshipful Provincial Senior Grand Deacon,
The Worshipful Provincial Junior Grand Deacon,
The Worshipful Provincial Assistant Grand Treasurer,
The Worshipful Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary,
Worshipful Provincial Grand Inspectors,
Worshipful Provincial Grand Stewards,
The Worshipful Provincial Grand Sword Bearer,
Worshipful Provincial Grand Stewards of Charities,
Worshipful Provincial Grand Almoners,
Worshipful Provincial Grand Organists,
The Worshipful Provincial Grand Lodge Standard Bearer,
The Worshipful Provincial Grand Master's Standard Bearer,
The Worshipful Provincial Grand Inner Guard,
Worshipful Provincial Grand Physicians.

The Past Provincial Grand Officers, and Honorary Past Provincial Grand Officers, who shall rank according to seniority after the Actual Provincial Grand Officers of the same rank.

The Master Masons of each Subordinate Lodge in the Province, who are fully subscribing members of Lodges within the Province.

2. Communications

The Stated Communications of the Provincial Grand Lodge shall be four in each year, on the second Thursday in January, April and October at a time stated on the Notice and on the third Wednesday in July at 2.00 p.m., subject to the power of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, the Right Worshipful Provincial Deputy Grand Master, or a Right Worshipful Provincial Assistant Grand Master, to vary the date, place and time of Meeting.

The Provincial Grand Officers elected or appointed for the ensuing year will be installed, invested or proclaimed and saluted at the January Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge.

A Notice of a Provincial Grand Lodge Communication shall be sent to every Provincial Grand Lodge Officer and the Secretary of each Subordinate Lodge, at least one month before the appointed day of the Stated Communication. A report of the Proceedings at the preceding

Quarterly Communication and at any intervening meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge shall be forwarded to all those entitled to receive Provincial Grand Lodge Notices.

Any Member of the Provincial Grand Lodge may have such Notices and Proceedings emailed or posted to him on registering his address with the Provincial Grand Secretary and paying such fee as defined in the schedule of fees.

An Emergency Communication may be held at any time the Provincial Grand Master, the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, or a Provincial Assistant Grand Master may deem expedient. The Notice for such a Communication shall be sent as far in advance of the date as practicable.

3. Order of Business

At each Communication the Provincial Grand Lodge shall be opened and ruled by the Provincial Grand Master, or in his absence by the Provincial Deputy Grand Master or in his absence a Provincial Assistant Grand Master, and in their absence by the Member of the Provincial Grand Lodge then present who shall be next in order of precedence.

At Stated Communications the order of business shall be as follows:

The Provincial Grand Lodge shall be opened.

1. Obituaries, if any.
2. Welcome Distinguished Guests.
3. The Minutes, or an "abridged" version, of the last Stated Communication, and Emergency Communications, if any, shall be read, and, when confirmed, the full minute will be duly signed and sealed.
4. Any business arising out of the Minutes.
5. Reports from the Board of General Purposes, or other Committees, shall be read and considered.
6. Correspondence.
7. Consideration of Motions of which Notice has been received.
8. Any other business.

No business shall be entered upon at any Emergency Communication except that stated on the Circular convening the Meeting.

4. Discussions - Order

A Brother wishing to speak shall stand and address the Presiding Officer and he shall not be interrupted, except on a point of order. A Brother may not speak more than once on the same subject, except in explanation, or unless he be called upon to do so by the Presiding

Officer. However, the Proposer of a Resolution shall, after due discussion of the same, have the right of reply before such Resolution or any amendment be submitted to a vote.

5. Postponement of Motions

Should the Proposer of a Motion, of which Notice has been previously given, not attend to move such Motion, or should he fail to authorise in writing some other Brother to do so for him, then, unless the Provincial Grand Lodge shall consent to a postponement, it shall be competent for any other Brother to move it as if he had originally given Notice thereof.

6. Motions Decided Upon

A Motion which the Provincial Grand Lodge has already considered and decided upon shall not be brought forward again, or otherwise discussed, until the lapse of six months from the date of such decision, except in the case of appeal being allowed by the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

7. Rejection of Motions

A discretionary power shall be vested in the Presiding Officer of rejecting any Notice of Motion at the time of its being handed in, if such Notice be deemed by him to be improper, unlawful, or inconsistent with the Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry.

8. Discussions - Religious and Political

Discussion on religious or political matters shall not, under any pretext whatever, be permitted in the Provincial Grand Lodge.

9. Voting

All business in the Provincial Grand Lodge shall be decided by a majority of votes, each qualified member having one, and the Presiding Officer in addition, a casting vote. Those qualified to vote are as specified in By-Law 1.

10. Complaints and Memorials

Lodges or Brethren must give at least twenty-one days' notice in writing to the Provincial Grand Secretary of any complaints, memorials or other relevant business which they may wish to bring before the Provincial Grand Lodge, giving a full and clear statement of the nature of such business.

Should any Brother have a complaint or grievance which he is desirous of having investigated by the Board of General Purposes, it must be forwarded the Provincial Grand Secretary, the complaint or grievance to be dealt with in accordance with Grand Lodge Laws.

Any communication from a Lodge must be signed by the Secretary, and have the Seal of the Lodge affixed thereto.

11. Ruling

The Presiding Officer shall be the sole judge of points of order, and Brethren must submit to his ruling.

12. Nominations and Election of Officers

All Lodges throughout the Province (excluding Emerald Isle Lodge No. 19, Lodge of Research 200, Lodge Ireland 2000, Grand Masters Lodge and Lux Diei) may make a nomination of a suitably qualified Past Master for 10 Provincial Offices annually to the Committee of Inspection for recommendation.

Such nominations must be made on forms provided for that purpose which contain the conditions under which the nominated brethren must abide, to be obtained from the Provincial Grand Secretary and returned to the Committee of Inspection before the fourth Wednesday in March in each year. Lodge nominations must be signed by the Worshipful Master, the Secretary, and the nominated member, and have the Lodge Seal affixed thereto. A list of all those nominated will be circulated to all Lodge Secretaries in the Province after the nominations have closed.

A Brother cannot be elected to any Office in the Provincial Grand Lodge unless he is:-

A Past Master of at least three years standing from the date of installation as Worshipful Master.

AND

A fully subscribing member of a Lodge in the Province

A nomination shall not be accepted from any Lodge which has not paid or is in arrears of fees or fines due to the Provincial Grand Lodge, or which has not sent forward the Annual Returns as required by By-Law 19.

- (a) A Lodge may propose only one of its duly subscribing members for an Office in Provincial Grand Lodge. It is the responsibility of the proposing Lodge to ensure that their nominated member understands the commitment required and is willing and able to serve in any position so elected to.
- (b) A Lodge may not propose an Honorary Member or a Country Member for an Office in Provincial Grand Lodge.
- (c) A Brother who has held an "Annual" Provincial Grand Lodge Office shall not be eligible for "Nomination" to another "Annual" Provincial Grand Lodge Office until a period of five years has elapsed.
- (d) The "Annual" Provincial Grand Lodge Officers are Provincial Senior Grand Warden, Provincial Junior Grand Warden, Provincial Senior Grand Deacon, Provincial Junior Grand Deacon, Provincial Grand Stewards (3), Provincial Grand Sword Bearer, Provincial Grand Lodge Standard Bearer and Provincial Grand Inner Guard.

A Brother shall only be recommended if he is elected by the Committee of Inspection. If a Lodge has nominated a member, it must be represented at the meeting of the Committee of Inspection on the fourth Wednesday in May, where the election will take place according to the following rules.

If fewer than 10 nominations are received, then those nominated are deemed elected. If more than 10 nominations are received, then a ballot is held. Each Lodge represented will vote for two nominated candidates; the ten nominated candidates with the highest number of votes will be deemed elected. If a tie exists so that more nominated candidates than offices exist, then those nominated candidates with more votes than those tied are declared elected, and another round of voting between those nominated candidates who are tied is held until all positions have been filled. If after a further round of balloting, there remains a tie, which in the opinion of the Presiding Officer will not be resolved by a further round of voting, the final positions will be filled by casting lots.

The Provincial Grand Master's Cabinet will assess these nominations and allocate what they consider to be the appropriate appointment to the relevant nominee.

In addition, the Provincial Grand Master retains his authority to make further appointments annually.

The Provincial Grand Secretary shall communicate to the various Brethren the fact of their having been selected for Office at Provincial Grand Lodge. Should any Brother decline to accept the office for which he has been recommended, he must inform the Provincial Grand Secretary of such refusal as soon as practicable, or before the first Monday in September at latest.

The names of all Brethren nominated for election, shall be set forth in the Circular issued, pursuant to By-Law 2, convening the Stated Communication in July.

The election will take place at the October Communication and the elected Brethren shall be installed at the forthcoming installation Communication, or at a subsequent Communication.

13. Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge Tenure

- (a) The Provincial Grand Master is appointed by Letters Patent from the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of Ireland (Grand Lodge Laws).
- (b) The Provincial Deputy Grand Master and the Provincial Assistant Grand Masters are appointed by the Provincial Grand Master (Grand Lodge Laws). The Provincial Grand Master will also appoint the Provincial Grand Master's Standard Bearer.
- (c) The Provincial Grand Master's Cabinet, with the concurrence of the Provincial Grand Lodge, will appoint annually the Provincial Grand Treasurer, the Provincial Grand Registrar, the Provincial Grand Secretary, the Provincial Grand Directors of Ceremonies, the Provincial Grand Chaplains, the Provincial Assistant Grand Treasurer, the Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary, Provincial Grand Inspectors, the Provincial Grand Stewards of Charities, the Provincial Grand Almoners, the Provincial Grand Organists, and Provincial Grand Physicians.
- (d) The Provincial Grand Master is empowered to confer Honorary Past Provincial Grand Rank as prescribed by Grand Lodge Laws.

- (e) The Provincial Instructors, following examination, are appointed by the V.W. the Grand Lodge of Instruction.
- (f) All other offices in the Provincial Grand Lodge shall be annual, and open to nomination as in By-Law 12.

14. Canvassing for Office

Canvassing for Office in the Provincial Grand Lodge is strictly forbidden. Any Brother proved to have been personally engaged therein shall be permanently ineligible for election to any Office in the Provincial Grand Lodge. Any Brother taking part in such canvassing, either on his own behalf or for another Brother or who shall attend any meeting or issue any circular or be a member of any deputation for such purpose, shall be deemed to be guilty of unmasonic conduct and may be dealt with under Grand Lodge Laws.

15. Vacation of Office

In the case of any elective Office being rendered vacant by the death or resignation of any Officer, the Provincial Grand Lodge, at the next Stated Communication, shall appoint a Brother to act in such Office until the next Annual election in the following October, and report same to Grand Lodge.

16. Absence of Officers

Any Officer of the Provincial Grand Lodge who has been absent from more than two of its Communications during his year of Office, and has not given reasons which the Provincial Grand Lodge deems satisfactory, shall be considered to have, ipso facto, vacated his Office, and forfeited his right to the privileges of a Past Provincial Grand Officer.

17. Clothing and Jewels

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, the Right Worshipful Provincial Deputy Grand Master, the Right Worshipful Provincial Assistant Grand Masters and the Right Worshipful Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master, shall wear gold chains as collars.

All Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge shall wear clothing with «PANTONE SHADE» and gold ornaments - the jewels or badges of Office to be provided by, and remain the property of, the Provincial Grand Lodge. Every Officer attending the Provincial Grand Lodge shall wear the appropriate full-dress apron, gauntlets, and the collar and jewel (if any) of the Office he holds in Provincial Grand Lodge.

The Representatives of Foreign Grand Lodges, not a serving Provincial Grand Officer may wear the insignia of those Masonic bodies they represent.

The jewels of Past Provincial Grand Lodge Officers should be worn suspended from a plain «PANTONE SHADE» round the neck, or from a gold bar and similar ribbon on left breast. The prescribed apron, collar and gauntlets may be worn by all such Officers. The Provincial Grand Lodge of the Metropolitan Area will not provide the jewel, or other regalia to a Past Provincial Grand Officer, but it may be purchased through the Provincial Grand Lodge. All Masters and Wardens representing Subordinate Lodges shall wear their collars and jewels of Office.

A Brother shall not be entitled to rank as a Past Provincial Grand Officer or an Honorary Past Provincial Grand Officer unless he shall have been installed or invested.

The Provincial Grand Lodge will grant to each Brother who has served in any Office under the Provincial Grand Lodge for one year, a Certificate bearing his name, Rank and Office, signed by the Provincial Grand Master, or the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, or a Provincial Assistant Grand Master, and the Provincial Grand Secretary. The Provincial Grand Lodge Seal shall be affixed to such Certificate. Certificates will normally be presented at the April Communication.

18. Fines

Fines, as defined up to the maximum specified in the schedule of fees, shall be levied on subordinate Lodges in breach of any of the relevant By-Laws unless a reason, acceptable to the Provincial Grand Master's Cabinet, is provided by the subordinate Lodge concerned. The Worshipful Master and Wardens thereof shall be precluded from taking part in any meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge until such dues, fees and fines shall have been paid.

At each Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge, Attendance Sheets shall be provided on which the Lodge Representative (Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden) present shall sign his name, rank and number of his Lodge. Every Lodge must be represented by at least one of the Lodge Representatives at a minimum of three of the Stated Communications of the Provincial Grand Lodge in each calendar year.

The Provincial Grand Secretary shall record the attendance of the Provincial Grand Lodge Officers and subordinate Lodge representatives in a Roll Book provided for that purpose. This record shall be taken as the sole proof of their attendance.

19. Returns from Subordinate Lodges

Every Lodge shall keep the records of its members up to date on the Client Relationship Management System. Access to the Client Relationship Management System will be provided by the Grand Secretary's Office to the Lodge Secretary or Designated person. Records to be kept up-to-date will be directed by the Grand Secretary's Office.

The Lodge Secretary or Designated person shall ensure that all records are up-to-date on or before the November 15th in each year; and at the same time all moneys then due to Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge shall be forwarded as directed.

Any Lodge failing to make said returns in strict conformity with this Law shall be liable to a fine as defined in the schedule of fees.

Lodge accounts shall be closed on December 31st in each year and a statement of receipts and expenditure, certified by two Auditors appointed by the Lodge, shall be presented at the Stated Communication in January, February or March following. The certified statement on the official form provided, signed by the Treasurer and Auditors, shall be forwarded to the Provincial Grand Secretary, and a copy of the Bank or Building Society Statements, prior to March 31st annually. A copy of this form must also be forwarded to the Provincial Grand Lodge Inspector.

Should any Lodge neglect to conform to this By-Law (Law 19), the Lodge shall be subject to a fine as defined in the schedule of fees. The members thereof shall be precluded from taking part in any Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge until such returns have been received, and any fees and fines paid. If such returns are not furnished and the fines not paid within one month, the Provincial Grand Lodge may recommend the suspension of the Warrant of any Lodge so offending.

20. Treasurer

The Provincial Grand Treasurer shall keep a proper account of the receipts and expenditure of the Provincial Grand Lodge; and shall at the Stated Communication in April, or at any other time, if called upon by the Provincial Grand Master or the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, or a Provincial Assistant Grand Master, produce the same duly made up to date.

21. Secretary

Minutes of the proceedings of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and of the Board of General Purposes, shall be kept by the Provincial Grand Secretary. The Minute Books and all other Provincial Grand Lodge documents in his keeping must be produced for inspection by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, The Right Worshipful Assistant Grand Master, The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, The Right Worshipful Provincial Deputy Grand Master, or a Right Worshipful Provincial Assistant Grand Master when required.

22. Auditors

At the Stated Communication in October two members of the Provincial Grand Lodge shall be appointed to audit the Accounts, and they shall report to the Provincial Grand Lodge at its April Communication.

23. Attending Master Masons

Any properly accredited Master Mason may be present at the Communications of the Provincial Grand Lodge.

24. Provincial Grand Master's Cabinet

The Provincial Grand Master's Cabinet shall consist of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, the Right Worshipful Provincial Deputy Grand Master, the Right Worshipful Provincial Assistant Grand Masters, the Very Worshipful Provincial Grand Treasurer, the Very Worshipful Provincial Grand Registrar, and the Very Worshipful Provincial Grand Secretary.

This Cabinet shall:

- (a) discuss matters of Provincial Grand Lodge policy and formulate policy statements for consideration by Provincial Grand Lodge.
- (b) discuss other matters brought before it by direction of the Provincial Grand Master.

The Provincial Grand Master or his Deputy may select and summon not fewer than three members to act as a committee for any of the following purposes:

- (c) To exercise all the powers and functions of the Provincial Grand Lodge or the Board of General Purposes under Grand Lodge Laws in relation to charges alleging Unmasonic Conduct as defined in the Laws & Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.
- (d) To investigate all complaints of a Masonic nature which may be forwarded, in writing, to the Provincial Grand Secretary and to resolve, where practicable, minor differences between Lodges and individual members.
- (e) To examine and report upon, or otherwise deal with, any matters which may be remitted to it by the Provincial Grand Lodge or the Provincial Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes, or (in cases deemed to be of emergency) by the Provincial Grand Master or his Deputy.

Should the consideration of any matter be adjourned, the Provincial Grand Master or his Deputy may summon additional members to the reconvened meeting. Three members shall constitute a quorum.

Should the Cabinet be asked to investigate any charge of Unmasonic Conduct involving a Brother or Lodge subject to the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Metropolitan Area's jurisdiction, it shall see that this is carried out in accordance with the Laws & Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and in particular to where the Laws & Constitutions pertain to matters of discipline.

25. Board of General Purposes

A Provincial Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes shall be constituted, and shall consist of the Provincial Grand Master's Cabinet and the Committee of Inspection.

The Board shall meet when summoned by the Provincial Grand Secretary, and seven members, one being a Provincial Grand Lodge Officer, shall form a quorum.

It shall be the duty of the Board of General Purposes, when required, to transact any special business which may be referred to it by the Provincial Grand Lodge, or the Provincial Grand Master's Cabinet.

The Provincial Grand Master, the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, or a Provincial Assistant Grand Master, shall preside at all meetings of the Board. Should none of these be present, the Brethren in attendance shall elect a Chairman to act during the meeting.

26. Unmasonic Conduct

- (a) It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master of a subordinate Lodge to see that the Provincial Grand Lodge is immediately informed if any Brother, a member of his Lodge, has been found guilty of a criminal offence or had a judgement registered in the civil courts.
- (b) All members of a subordinate Lodge have a duty to see that the Worshipful Master is informed of any such conviction or judgement.

- (c) It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master of a subordinate Lodge to see that the Provincial Grand Lodge is immediately informed if any Brother, a member of his Lodge, may have committed an act of Unmasonic Conduct, as defined in the Laws and Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

In any case where the Worshipful Master does not perform this duty, or is deemed unlikely to do so, due to a conflict of interest or due to any other reason, the duty shall pass to the Secretary, or to the Treasurer, or to the Wardens.

27. Committee of Inspection

27.1 The Committee of Inspection, comprising the Lodges in the Province and any Lodges which may hereafter be established therein (excluding Emerald Isle Lodge No. 19, Lodge of Research 200, Lodge Ireland 2000, Grand Masters Lodge and Lux Diei) shall have jurisdiction over the admission of:

- (a) Candidates to the Order.
- (b) Brethren rejoining who have ceased to be subscribing members
- (c) Brethren affiliating from other Constitutions.

27.2 Membership of the Committee of Inspection
The Committee of Inspection shall consist of:

The Provincial Grand Master.
The Provincial Deputy Grand Master.
The Provincial Assistant Grand Masters.
The Provincial Grand Treasurer.
The Provincial Grand Registrar.
The Provincial Grand Secretary.

The above Officers shall also be ex-officio members of all sub-committees.

The other members shall be the Provincial Grand Inspectors and a Representative from each Lodge in the Province, who shall be elected annually at the Lodge's ordinary election of Officers, and who must be a Worshipful Master or a subscribing Past Master.

Should the Representative of a Lodge be unable to attend he may appoint a subscribing Past Master of the Lodge, or a subscribing Past Master of any Lodge in the Province as his Proxy. The appointment of a Proxy shall be valid for one Meeting only, and must be notified in writing to the Secretary before the Meeting for which the Proxy has been appointed.

Each Brother present, if a member of the Committee of Inspection, a Proxy, or both, shall on division have one vote only - the Chairman to have an additional or casting vote if the numbers be equal. All questions shall be decided by a majority of votes of those present.

The Committee of Inspection may appoint a Standing Committee to which difficult cases may be referred for consideration. The Standing Committee will then report its findings to the General Committee. The Chairman and Secretary of the General Committee shall be members of this Committee, with not more than seven others to be appointed. Five shall form a quorum.

27.3 Lodges in arrears

A Representative whose Lodge has neglected to make its returns and pay its dues and fees to the Grand Lodge or Provincial Grand Lodge, shall not act as a member of the Committee of Inspection, nor shall the Lodge be entitled to submit the names of candidates to the Committee of Inspection.

27.4 Consideration of Candidates

The eligibility of a Candidate shall not be considered by the Committee, unless a Representative from the Lodge (or his Proxy) be present.

27.5 Meetings

The Committee of Inspection shall meet at Freemasons' Hall, 17 Molesworth Street, Dublin D02 HK50 on the fourth Wednesday in each month except June, July, August, and December.

27.6 Quorum of the Committee of Inspection

Five members shall constitute a quorum of the Committee of Inspection.

27.7 Presiding Officers

The Provincial Grand Master, or in his absence the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, or in his absence a Provincial Assistant Grand Master, or in their absence by the Member of the Provincial Grand Lodge then present who shall be next in order of precedence shall chair the meeting of the Committee of Inspection.

27.8 Secretary

The Provincial Grand Secretary shall act as Secretary or appoint another Brother to act on his behalf.

The Secretary shall record the Minutes of the Meetings.

27.9 Confirmation of Minutes

At each regular Meeting of the Committee of Inspection, the Minutes of the preceding Meeting shall be read, confirmed, signed by the Chairman and countersigned by the Secretary.

27.10 Duty of Committees

It shall be the duty of the Committee of Inspection to decide on the eligibility of all candidates for initiation, Brethren re-joining and Brethren affiliating from other Constitutions, in accordance with Grand Lodge Laws. The name of any candidate withdrawn, or rejected by the Committee of Inspection shall not be re-submitted for

consideration to the Committee of Inspection for at least six months. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a record of the particulars of such cases.

27.11 Proposal forms and length of notice

Information concerning each Candidate for initiation, each Brother re-joining and each Brother affiliating from another Constitution shall be forwarded on the special form supplied by the Provincial Grand Secretary. The completed form, signed by the Secretary of the Lodge in which he has been elected, must be received by the Secretary of the Committee of Inspection by the second Wednesday in the month to be distributed to all Lodge Secretaries in the Province. The following month after the meeting of the Committee of Inspection on the fourth Wednesday, the Provincial Grand Secretary will reply in writing to the Lodge Secretary, except in December when he will reply after the meeting of the Committee of Inspection on the fourth Wednesday in January, or in June, July, or August, when he will reply after the meeting of the Committee of Inspection on the fourth Wednesday in September.

27.12 Fees payable

A fee as defined in the schedule of fees will be charged for any Candidate being submitted to the Committee; the fee to be charged to the Lodge account.

27.13 Non-resident candidates and enquiry before ballot

A candidate for initiation, or rejoining, residing outside the jurisdiction of the Committee of Inspection under which the Lodge meets, shall not be balloted for until after due enquiry has been made, and a satisfactory report received from the Committee of Inspection within whose jurisdiction he resides (See Grand Lodge Laws).

The approval of such Committee must be submitted with the proposal form to the Committee of Inspection.

27.14 Candidates for initiation

A candidate shall not be initiated in any Lodge in the Masonic Province of the Metropolitan Area, until the fact of his having duly passed the Committee within whose jurisdiction the Lodge meets, shall have been officially notified to the Lodge. A candidate for initiation in the Masonic Province of the Metropolitan Area who has not continuously resided within the jurisdiction of the Committee of Inspection under which the Lodge meets, for at least twelve months immediately preceding his proposal, shall not be balloted for in any Lodge in the Province until due enquiry shall have been made and a satisfactory reply received from the Committee of Inspection nearest to his last known place of residence.

A candidate for initiation or rejoining who has not resided in Ireland for at least one year immediately prior to date of application shall not be balloted for until enquiry shall have been made and a favourable reply received from the Grand Lodge having jurisdiction in the area where he previously resided. Such enquiry shall be made through the Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of Ireland.

In all cases the reply to an enquiry shall be read in open Lodge before ballot.

27.15 Brethren rejoining

A Brother who has ceased to be a subscribing member, must produce his Demit from his former Lodge or otherwise be able to demonstrate that he left in "Good Standing", after which he should be duly proposed, balloted for and subsequently approved by the Committee of Inspection in the same manner as if he were a candidate for initiation.

A Brother who has ceased to be a subscribing member whether by suspension, or by being struck-off the Roll for non-payment of dues, shall not resume membership of any Lodge in the Masonic Province of the Metropolitan Area until he has been restored to "Good Masonic Standing", duly proposed, balloted for and subsequently approved by the Committee of Inspection in the same manner as if he were a candidate for initiation.

27.16 Brethren for affiliation from other Constitutions

A candidate for affiliation from another Constitution shall not be balloted for until enquiry shall have been made and a favourable reply received from the Grand Lodge having jurisdiction in the area where he previously resided. Such enquiry shall be made through the Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of Ireland.

After clearance has been granted from the Grand Secretary the Lodge shall submit the details of the Brother to the Committee of Inspection in the same manner as if he were a candidate for initiation.

27.17 Any Lodge within the Province of the Metropolitan Area which shall initiate a candidate, permit a Brother to rejoin, or affiliate a Brother from another Constitution, without the previous approval of the Committee of Inspection having jurisdiction in the case, shall be fined, as defined in the schedule of fees, or be liable to have its Warrant suspended or cancelled by Grand Lodge.

27.18 A Lodge in the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Metropolitan Area shall not Initiate any Candidate until the Lodge has been officially notified in writing that the Candidate has been approved by the Committee of Inspection.

27.19 All Lodges subject to the jurisdiction of the Committee of Inspection in the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Metropolitan Area shall pay a subscription, to be fixed annually by the Committee, to defray the expense of the outgoing Master and incoming Master at the annual Masters' Gala Dinner, which is normally held after the January meeting of the Committee of Inspection.

28. Collections and Subscriptions

With the exception of the usual Lodge Collections and Subscriptions for the established Masonic Charities, proceedings of any kind for the raising or collecting of money for any Masonic or other purpose shall not be undertaken by any Subordinate Lodge in the Province, or individual member thereof, without the sanction of the Provincial Grand Master or the Provincial Deputy Grand Master or a Provincial Assistant Grand Master, and the sanction of Grand Lodge before circulation in the rest of the Constitution.

29. Charity

A collection in aid of Charity shall be made at each Stated Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge, the proceeds to be disposed of as the Provincial Grand Lodge may direct.

30. Masonic Processions and Social Functions

30.1 All Masonic processions, unless previously sanctioned by either Grand Lodge, the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Assistant Grand Master, the Provincial Grand Master, the Provincial Deputy Grand Master or a Provincial Assistant Grand Master are strictly prohibited, under the penalty of forfeiture of the Warrant of any Lodge, and the suspension of any Brother taking part therein.

30.2 No Lodge shall hold any festive board, dinner, social, or charitable event outside its usual place of meeting except with written permission, obtained through the Provincial Grand Secretary, from the Provincial Grand Master, the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, or a Provincial Assistant Grand Master.

30.3 No Dinner or other social function or entertainment organised by the Secretary, Officers or Members of a Subordinate Lodge, or by the authority of a Lodge shall take place on the same date of any event, social function or entertainment organised by the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Metropolitan Area without permission obtained in writing through the Provincial Grand Secretary, from the Provincial Grand Master, the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, or a Provincial Assistant Grand Master.

31. Publication of Proceedings

The transactions or proceedings, or any portion thereof, of any Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge or any Subordinate Lodge, or any Masonic Committee, or of a Meeting of a Masonic character, or any comment thereon, or reference thereto, shall not be printed or published without the permission in writing which must be obtained through the Provincial Grand Secretary, of the Provincial Grand Master, the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, or a Provincial Assistant Grand Master.

32. Masonic Halls

New buildings for Masonic purposes, or the alteration, extension or reconstruction of existing buildings shall not be undertaken or proceeded with until plans, with estimates, proposed expenditure and income shall have been submitted to, and approved by, Provincial Grand Lodge. No such plan can be approved and no building or part of a building owned by a Masonic Lodge or Lodges or by the Trustees for a Masonic Lodge or Lodges shall be dedicated to Masonry by the Provincial Grand Lodge unless a Declaration of Trust for Masonic purposes in such form and containing such clauses as are approved by the Provincial Grand Lodge shall have been duly executed and, where necessary, brought up to date by the appointment of new Trustees, in accordance with the terms thereof.

Masonic Hall Companies, Masonic Hall Management Committees and Masonic Social Clubs must submit a certified and audited copy of their Financial Statement to Provincial Grand Lodge and all Lodges residing in the Hall, at the end of each financial year.

33. By-Laws

Each Lodge in the Province shall have By-Laws in keeping with model By-Laws as produced by Grand Lodge. When recommended by Provincial Grand Lodge and confirmed by Grand Lodge, these shall be printed and circulated among the Members of the Lodge, and two copies sent to the Provincial Grand Secretary.

34. Alteration of Provincial Grand Lodge By-Laws or Grants of Money

A Motion for the enactment of a new By-Law, or for the alteration or repeal of any existing By-Law, or for a grant of money from Provincial Grand Lodge Funds (current expenses excepted), shall not be made unless notice thereof in writing shall have been given at a Stated Communication, which Notice shall be printed in the Circular summoning the next Stated Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge.

35. Circulation of By-Laws

The Secretary of each Lodge in the Province shall be furnished with a copy of these By-Laws; and any Member requiring a copy may procure same from the Provincial Grand Secretary on payment of a fee as defined in the schedule of fees.

36. Communications to the Provincial Grand Master, his Deputy and Assistants

Any and all communications to the Provincial Grand Master, or the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, or to a Provincial Assistant Grand Master must be made, in writing, through the Provincial Grand Secretary.

37. Communications from Provincial Grand Lodge & Lodges

Any and all communications from the Provincial Grand Master will be made on his behalf by the Provincial Grand Secretary. Lodge Secretaries have the responsibility to see that all communications addressed to Lodges for distribution are distributed to the brethren in a timely manner and read at the next Communication of the Lodge.

38. Social Media and Websites

38.1 Social Media

A Brother shall not create or belong to any Social Media Platform, describing itself as being associated with, or belonging to, or representing in any way, Irish Freemasonry, or the Grand Lodge of Ireland, that is not authorised by the Grand Lodge of Ireland; unless such Social Media Platform shall be approved by the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

In the case that the Grand Lodge of Ireland permits the establishment of such a Social Media Platform, it reserves the right to have a representative of Grand Lodge appointed as an administrator, of the said Social Media Platform.

Such Social Media Platforms that shall be authorised by the Grand Lodge of Ireland, shall abide by and act in accordance with the advices and recommendations provided in the current version of the "Guidance for the use of Social Media" of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, as appearing on the Grand Lodge of Ireland official website.

38.2 Websites

A Brother shall not create or develop a Website, describing itself as being associated with, or belonging to, or representing in any way, Irish Freemasonry, or the Grand Lodge of Ireland, that is not authorised by the Grand Lodge of Ireland; unless such Website shall be approved by the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

Any authorised Website must have a current security certificate and be hosted with a reputable hosting service.

Such Websites that shall be authorised by the Grand Lodge of Ireland, shall abide by and act in accordance with the advices and recommendations provided in the current version of the "Guidance for Websites" of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, as appearing on the Grand Lodge of Ireland official website.

Schedule Of Fees

Dues

The dues payable annually by Lodges shall be per member: €7.00

Fees

For Provincial Grand Lodge Circulars (By-Law 2) €10.00

For a Past Provincial Grand Lodge Officer's Certificate: €10.00

For each candidate whose name is sent in for submission to the Committee of Inspection the Lodge responsible shall pay: €10.00

For each candidate for Affiliation from another Constitution or a Brother re-joining the Lodge responsible shall pay: €10.00

For each candidate for Inspection who has been re-submitted shall pay: €50.00

For an Enquiry from a Lodge outside the Province of the Metropolitan Area the Lodge concerned shall pay: €10.00

For Copy of Provincial Grand Lodge By-Laws. (By-Law 35): €10.00

Fines

For irregular attendance as set forth in By-Law 18, on the first offence: €50.00

For irregular attendance as set forth in By-Law 18, on subsequent offences: €100.00

For non-payment of dues, etc. as set forth in By-Law 18: €150.00

For breach of By-Law 19 (Statement of Accounts) €150.00

For breach of By-Law 19 (Annual Returns) €150.00

For breach of By-Law 27: €150.00

For breach of By-Law 30: €100.00

Confirmed at the Stated Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge, held at Freemasons' Hall,
17 Molesworth Street, Dublin D02 HK50, on «DATE».

Alan P. Robinson
Provincial Grand Secretary

Approved by Grand Lodge
«DATE»

Freemasons' Hall,
17 Molesworth Street,
Dublin D02 HK50

Philip A.J. Daley
Grand Secretary

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