

REMITTS TO BE MOVED IN GRAND LODGE 2026

REMITTS

Following each individual Remit, comments have been included to convey the views on the various motions that have been proposed to assist Lodges in considering how their representative should vote.

4A. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REMITS

By way of background the Board is undertaking a comprehensive review of the Book of Constitution with the assistance of the Grand Registrar and others. That project is still gathering momentum however, an initial review identified some matters that could be addressed (which will then spread decision making on rule changes across several meetings of Grand Lodge).

The intention is that the Book of Constitution should contain rules relating to the constitution of the Craft and any matters which are of a ceremonial nature, or which depend on the Board setting a policy, should be contained in the Collected Rulings. This is particularly relevant to Remits 5, 6, 10 and 13.

The Collected Rulings enable the Board to proactively amend and modify matters of policy but any changes to the Book of Constitution must be agreed at a Communication or Annual Communication.

It is important to note that Brethren and Lodges can:

- i. raise any item via a remit to a Communication or Annual Communication, or
- ii. make representation to the Board of Directors at any time,

on any matter contained in either the Book of Constitution Rules or the Collected Rulings.

The Chair of the Board of Directors, VW Bro Warwick Bell has moved the following Remits 1 to 14 and RW Bro Neville Patrick, Director has seconded.

REMIT 1	ELECTRONIC VOTING
	That the Book of Constitution Rule 201 Voting and Rule 202 Ballots be amended from: 201. Voting a. On any resolution at Communication each Craft Lodge shall have one vote. b. Unless these Rules expressly call for a matter to be determined by Ballot, it shall be determined on the voices, and if there is any doubt as to whether it is carried or lost, on a show of hands. c. On a show of hands, each Lodge shall have one vote and will exercise that vote by the duly appointed Lodge Representative or Proxy holding up one hand and, if required, exhibiting voting authority. d. If the Presiding Officer decides, or ten Lodges so demand, the question shall be put to a ballot. e. On a ballot every Lodge shall be entitled to cast one vote. In the case of an equality of votes the motion shall be lost. and 202. Ballots a. The Presiding Officer shall appoint not less than four scrutineers, who shall count the votes and report the result of the ballot to him. b. The ballot papers shall be promptly destroyed. To read: 201. Voting a. On any resolution at Communication each Craft Lodge shall have one vote. b. The Presiding Officer shall have a discretion on any resolution:- i. to call for the determination of the resolution by voices, or if there is any material doubt by a show of hands. On a show of hands, each Lodge shall have one vote and will exercise that vote by the duly appointed Lodge Representative or Proxy holding up one hand and, if required, exhibiting voting authority. ii. If the Presiding Officer decides, or ten Lodges so demand, the question shall be put to a ballot. On a ballot every Lodge shall be entitled to cast one vote. In the case of an equality of votes the motion shall be lost. c. Voting may be undertaken using electronic means provided:- i. the facility enables the accurate recording of the votes cast by those Lodges entitled to vote at the Communication; ii. the methodology for electronic voting is fully explained to Lodges prior to the use of the facility; iii. any minor error or irregularity shall not nullify any vote taken electronically at a Communication unless objection is raised immediately following the vote or the declaration of the result and

	the Presiding Officer declares the vote a nullity. In the case of a nullity, the Presiding Officer shall determine a suitable process for the votes on the resolution to be counted. and 202. Ballots - The Presiding Officer shall appoint not less than four scrutineers, who shall oversee the counting of the votes and report the result of the ballot to him. - The means of ballot shall be promptly destroyed.
Rationale	Means of voting have changed with the development of technology including voting electronically when lodge representatives are connecting online. Masonica has now developed a facility to allow Lodge representatives to vote through that portal. Approving this as the first Remit will validate the proposed voting method for the Annual Communication. Note the Board of Directors will cancel Collected Ruling 134 and tweak Collected Ruling 135 to accommodate an electronic voting system.

REMIT 2	REMITs AND NOTICE OF MOTIONS
	That the Book of Constitution Rule 265 be amended from: 265. Amendment of Book of Constitution - These Rules may be amended at any Communication, Annual Communication, Special Communication or in the manner following. - All amendments shall be by way of Remit. - Amendments to be dealt with at any Communication, Annual Communication, Special Communication shall be dealt with as provided under Part VI of these Rules. - Any Lodge proposing any Remit to amend or vary any provision of the Constitution shall adopt the following procedure. - A Remit shall be first submitted to the Grand Superintendent of the Geographic Region in which the Lodge is situated. - Upon receiving the Remit, the Grand Superintendent of Region shall not later than one month <u>summons</u> a meeting of Lodges within his Geographic Region to consider the proposed Remit and vote on whether the remit in its then current form or any variation of the Remit should proceed further. - Should Lodges in the Geographic Region agree to support the Remit, the Grand Superintendent of the Geographic Region shall submit that Remit to the Divisional Grand Master of his Division for submission to the Board of Directors who shall consider the remit

	at the meeting of the Board following the submission of the remit to it. h. The Board following consideration shall submit the Remit to all Lodges forthwith following the meeting at which the remit was considered. The remit shall be accompanied by any explanation which may have accompanied the remit from the submitting Geographic Region (whether from the Lodge or the submitting Grand Superintendent of Region), an explanation from the Board (which shall state whether the Board shall support the remit or not) and method for voting on the Remit. Voting may be postal or electronic as the Board shall determine. Only a Lodge may vote on the Remit. i. Once voting shall be concluded, if the Remit shall be adopted, unless otherwise provided the variation or amendment to these Rules, unless otherwise provided in the Remit, shall come into force on the first day of month following adoption. j. The Board shall when considering such remit submitted to it as aforesaid, consider without limitation the wording and appropriateness of the draft submitted and to ensure that the Remit complies in all ways with the provisions of the Book of Constitution, is appropriately drafted and shall not be offensive and where appropriate may make suitable changes without altering the intent of the Remit. k. Where the Board proposes any Remit to amend or vary any provision of the Constitution, it shall with suitable variations follow the procedures set out in Sub Clause h. above. l. Except as otherwise provided in this rule, this method shall be the sole means of amending <u>these Rules</u>. m. Notwithstanding the foregoing, there shall be reserved the right in any year in which a Grand Installation shall be scheduled and not later than the period of four (4) months prior to this meeting for any Lodge or the Board to propose a Remit for consideration at this meeting and the provisions of these Rules for such a remit shall apply to that matter under Part VI of these rules for such a remit shall apply. To read: 265. Amendment of Book of Constitution a. These Rules may be amended in the manner following. b. All amendments shall be by way of Remit either from a Lodge or from the Board. c. Any Lodge proposing a Remit to amend any provision of these Rules shall adopt the following procedure. i. The Remit must be moved by one Lodge and seconded by another Lodge. ii. The Remit shall be first submitted to the Grand Superintendent of the Geographic Region in which the moving Lodge is situated. iii. The Grand Superintendent of Region shall within one month summons a meeting of Lodges within his Geographic Region to consider the proposed Remit and vote on whether the remit in its then current form or any variation of the Remit should proceed further. iv. Should a majority of the Lodges in the Geographic Region agree to support the Remit, the Grand Superintendent of the Geographic Region shall submit that Remit to the Divisional Grand Master of his Division for submission to the Board of Directors who shall consider the remit at the meeting of the Board following the submission of the remit to it. v. Once the Remit has been supported by the Region and forwarded to the Board, then the Remit is deemed to have been properly moved and seconded without any further formality required. vi. The Board shall consider the remit and determine the appropriate method for circulation to Lodges for the purposes of voting (which may be postal or electronic voting, or referral to an imminent Communication). The Board shall then submit the Remit to all Lodges accompanied by any
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	explanation which may have accompanied the remit from the submitting Geographic Region (whether from the Lodge or the submitting Grand Superintendent of Region), an explanation from the Board (which shall state whether the Board shall support the remit or not) and method for voting on the Remit. Only a Lodge may vote on the Remit. d. Where the Board proposes to amend any provision of these Rules, it shall circulate a Remit to all Lodges accompanied by any explanation outlining the reasoning for the proposal amendment and the method for voting on the Remit. Any Remit from the Board shall not require a mover or a seconder. e. Once voting is concluded, and if the Remit is adopted by a majority of Lodges who cast a vote, the amendment to these Rules shall, unless otherwise provided in the Remit, come into force on the first day of month following adoption. f. The Board shall when considering a Remit submitted to it as aforesaid, consider without limitation the wording and appropriateness of the draft submitted and to ensure that the Remit complies in all ways with the provisions of the Book of Constitution, is appropriately drafted and shall not be offensive and where appropriate may make suitable changes without altering the intent of the Remit.
Rationale	The Grand Registrar was asked to look at the Rules relating to a Remit and to a Notice of Motion: Rule 197 sets out the basic rules for remits and motions, with voting detailed in R201. Rule 265 then covers similar ground but including postal and electronic voting. It was identified that the process for getting topics before Communications and Annual Communications should be clarified and simplified. Advice to the Board is that a remit is the same as a notice of motion. This remit therefore removes the double references.

REMIT 3	RULE 197 NOTICE TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PROPOSED BUSINESS
	That the Book of Constitution Rule 197 be amended from: 197. Notice to Board of Directors of Proposed Business a. All matters to be brought before Communication, except communications from the Grand Master and reports from the Board and Committees of Grand Lodge, shall be introduced by way of a motion. b. Any Lodge or Brother wishing to present a remit or motion to Grand Lodge shall give notice thereof to the Divisional Grand Master. c. Repealed 76 October 2025 d. Repealed e. Notice of any motion intended to be moved at any Communication shall be given to the Board of Directors by a date fixed by the Board. f. Nothing in this Rule shall preclude a Lodge or Brother from raising any matter in General Business as provided by these Rules. g. The Board of Directors shall determine the order of business to be followed at the Communication, and no other business shall be discussed in Grand Lodge, except by permission of the presiding officer. h. Any member of Grand Lodge may without previous notice move the reception, adoption or otherwise of any report of a Board or a Committee appointed, whether by Grand Lodge or by the Grand Master, together with any motion arising from that report or from any recommendation contained in it. To read: 197 Notice to Board of Directors of Proposed Business a. All matters to be brought before Communication, except communications from the Grand Master and reports from the Board and Committees of Grand Lodge, shall be introduced by way of a remit. b. Notice of a remit intended to be moved at any Communication shall be given to the Board of Directors by a date fixed by the Board. c. Nothing in this Rule shall preclude a Lodge or Brother from raising any matter in General Business as provided by these Rules. d. The Board of Directors shall determine the order of business to be followed at the Communication, and no other business shall be discussed in Grand Lodge, except by permission of the presiding officer. e. Any member of Grand Lodge may move the reception or adoption of any report of the Board or any Committee, together with any recommendation contained in it.
Rationale	The Grand Registrar was asked to look at the Rules relating to a Remit and to a Notice of Motion. Rule 197 sets out the basic rules for remits and motions. If the amendments to Rule 265 are adopted in Remit 2 then this remit updates Rule 197 in line with the amended Rule 265.

REMIT 4	TRANSFER OF MEMBERS ON LODGE CLOSURE
	That the Book of Constitution Rule 67c. be amended from: i. In the instance of a lodge, or lodges, closing or merging to form one lodge in the same locality, the members who so elect, will have their membership, rank and standings classed as a transfer and not require proposal or election (i.e. not to be classed as a joining member) ii. Members who choose other than to transfer as above would still be required to follow Rules 65 and 66. To read:- c. Notwithstanding Rules 65 and 66, on the amalgamation of 2 or more Lodges, the members of those Lodges may transfer their membership to the amalgamated Lodge as of right. If any member chooses to join a Lodge other than the amalgamated Lodge, then Rules 65 and 66 shall apply.
Rationale	On any amalgamation, the brethren of the two lodges can transfer their membership to the amalgamated Lodge as of right. However, if a member chooses to join any other Lodge, then the usual rules as to joining members shall apply. The existing Rule has been misinterpreted by some and the adjustment makes the intent clear.

REMIT 5	RULE 227 BOARDS OF ENQUIRY
	That the Book of Constitution Rule 227 be deleted: a. The Board of Directors may authorise the establishment of Boards of Enquiry and lay down guidelines for their operation. b. Membership of Boards of Enquiry shall be open to all Lodges holding a Charter under the Grand Lodge and Lodges of other recognised Constitutions. and to be replaced by a Collected Ruling of the Board.
Rationale	This activity is not considered to be a constitutional item needing to be a rule in the Book of Constitution. Boards Of Enquiry are an operational matter.

REMIT 6	RULE 261 LAYING FOUNDATION STONE
	That the Book of Constitution Rule 261 be deleted:- Except in special cases the Masonic ceremony of laying a foundation stone, consecrating a Lodge Room, or opening a new building shall not be performed unless the new building or other major works has been approved by the Board of Directors. And to be replaced by a Collected Ruling of the Board.
Rationale	This activity is not considered to be a constitutional item needing to be a rule in the Book of Constitution. Indeed, there is also an existing Collected Ruling covering similar ground. The remit proposes to remove this Rule and then combine the material in a fresh Collected Ruling from the Board.

REMIT 7	RULE 19 DELIVERY OF DOCUMENTS
	That the Book of Constitution Rule 19 be amended by deleting Rule 19 b iv and Rule 19 c iii:- b. Documents or Notices to be sent to any Craft Lodge may be delivered by hand to the Master or Secretary thereof, or sent to the Master or the Secretary of the Lodge, addressed to that person in his name or by his title of office, in either case at his usual address or at his last address known to the Grand Secretary. Documents or Notices to be sent to any member of a Lodge may be:- i. Delivered by hand to that member, or ii. Sent as provided in Section 152 of the Property Law Act 1952, or iii. Sent by posting by ordinary post addressed to him at his usual address, or to his last address known to the Grand Secretary, or iv. Sent by facsimile, or v. Sent by email. c. A Document or Notice is deemed to have been served:- i. In the case of personal delivery, when received by the member, or ii. In the case of posting by ordinary post, on the 5th day following the date of posting, or iii. In the case of facsimile transmission, when sent to the facsimile number notified in writing by the member, or iv. In the case of email, when acknowledged by the member by return email or otherwise in writing. and renumbering the subclauses b.v. and c.iv.
Rationale	Facsimile is not a current means of communication. The amendment proposes to tidy this up.

REMIT 8	RULE 5f
	That the Book of Constitution Rule 5 Clause f. be deleted f. In Rules 21.a, 221.d, 223.b., 224.a., 224.b, 224.c., and 225 ‘the Chair of the Board of Directors shall replace any reference to ‘the President of the Board of General Purposes’ or ‘the President’.
Rationale	The changes have been made to the Rules set out and the clause is no longer needed.

REMIT 9	GRAND SUPERINTENDENT OF RESEARCH & EDUCATION.
	That the title of the Grand Superintendent of Research and Education be retitled ‘Grand Superintendent of Education and Research’; and that the Book of Constitution Rules as follows be adjusted accordingly: - Rule 2 Clause k “The Executive Officers”; - Rule 122 Officers of Grand Lodge; - Rule 123 Precedence of Members of Grand Lodge; - Rule 124 Style & Address of Brethren; - Rule 186 Jewels of Officers of Grand Lodge.
Rationale	The original intent of the role was to advance Masonic Education. The reference to Research in the title was added to the remit establishing the role. This remit aligns the title of the role with the title of the Education and Research Committee.

REMIT 10	RULE 123 PRECEDENCE and RULE 124: STYLE AND ADDRESS
	That the Book of Constitution Rules 123 and 124 be deleted and be replaced by a Collected Ruling of the Board as presently stated.
Rationale	The Book of Constitution should contain rules relating to the constitution of the Craft and any rules which are of a ceremonial nature, or which depend on the Board setting a policy, should be contained in the Collected Rulings. This enables the Board to amend and modify Collected Rulings but any changes to the Book of Constitution must be agreed at a Communication. It is proposed these two rules are removed from the Book of Constitution and instead both will appear as a Collected Ruling – it is not proposed to make any changes to the content of the rules – merely to re-locate them in the appropriate position.

REMIT 11	RULE 127 ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE
	That the Book of Constitution Rules 127 be amended from: 127. Eligibility for Office a. Except for the Offices of Grand Master, Grand Chaplain, Grand Registrar, Grand Treasurer, Grand Superintendent of Works, Grand Secretary and Grand Organist, no Brother shall be eligible to be nominated for or to be appointed or elected to any office in Grand Lodge unless he is a Past Master and he is enrolled on the Roll of Grand Lodge. b. No Brother shall be eligible to be appointed or elected to the Office of Grand Chaplain, Grand Registrar, Grand Treasurer, Grand Superintendent of Works, Grand Secretary or Grand Organist unless he is a Master Mason. To add additional clauses: c. An “active Grand Lodge officer” shall mean a Grand Lodge officer holding a current rank within Grand Lodge. d. Any active Grand Lodge officer shall not, without the dispensation of the Grand Master, accept appointment to or fill any role in a Craft Lodge during the currency of his term in office in Grand Lodge.
Rationale	The accepted protocol is that on accepting an active Grand Lodge officer role the brother should be devoting his time to that role. However, it is accepted that on occasions, given the current membership and size of lodges, that there are circumstances when a brother is already contributing or will need to contribute to his lodge. This amendment seeks to provide clarity to the process.

REMIT 12	RULE 183 WEARING OF GRAND LODGE REGALIA IN A CRAFT LODGE
	That the Book of Constitution Rules 183 be amended from 183. Wearing of Grand Lodge Regalia a. When Grand Lodge is officially in attendance Officers of Grand Lodge shall wear either the full dress or the undress regalia appropriate to their rank. b. A Grand Lodge Officer who is not presiding in an office in a Craft Lodge may wear the undress regalia that is appropriate to his Grand Lodge rank or the Craft Lodge regalia that is appropriate to his rank. A Grand Lodge Officer on an official visit to a Craft Lodge shall wear his Grand Lodge dress regalia appropriate to his rank. Craft Lodge regalia shall not be intermingled with Grand Lodge Regalia. To read: 183. Wearing of Grand Lodge Regalia in a Craft Lodge a. When Grand Lodge is officially in attendance Officers of Grand Lodge shall wear either the full dress or the undress regalia appropriate to their rank.

	b. A Grand Lodge Officer who is not presiding in an office in a Craft Lodge may wear the undress regalia that is appropriate to his Grand Lodge rank or the Craft Lodge regalia that is appropriate to his rank. A Grand Lodge Officer on an official visit to a Craft Lodge shall wear his Grand Lodge dress regalia appropriate to his rank. c. Craft Lodge regalia shall not be intermingled with Grand Lodge Regalia. d. Where an active Grand Lodge officer has dispensation to hold the office of Master of a Lodge, under Rule 127, then while presiding as Master in his Lodge he may wear the regalia of a Master. However, on all occasions when not presiding as Master of his Lodge, including when visiting other Craft Lodges as Master, he shall wear the regalia of his Grand Lodge office (and the terms of CR 48 shall apply). e. Where an active Grand Lodge officer has dispensation to hold an office in a Craft Lodge other than Master, then he shall wear the regalia of his Grand Lodge office.
Rationale	There has been confusion on the wearing of Grand Lodge regalia when an active Grand Lodge officer is holding office in a craft lodge. This amendment seeks to provide clarity.

REMIT 13	RULES 185 TO 194 INCLUSIVE: JEWELS, APRONS AND REGALIA
	That the Book of Constitution Rules 185 to 194 inclusive be deleted and be replaced by a Collected Ruling of the Board as presently stated.
Rationale	The Book of Constitution should contain rules relating to the constitution of the Craft and any rules which are of a ceremonial nature, or which depend on the Board setting a policy, should be contained in the Collected Rulings. This will enable the Board to amend and modify Collected Rulings but any changes to the Book of Constitution must be agreed at a Communication. It is proposed these rules are removed from the Book of Constitution and instead all will appear as a Collected Ruling – it is not proposed to make any changes to the content of the rules – merely to re-locate them in the appropriate position.

REMIT 14	DEFINITION OF A MASONIC ENTITY.
	That the Book of Constitution Rule 2 Clause r. be amended from:- r. Masonic Entity includes but is not limited to: a. Any Trust where the Trustees of that Trust are appointed to that Trust due to being: i. Trustees of a Lodge or Lodges, or ii. Appointed by a Lodge or Lodges to be Trustees of that Trust b. Any Limited Liability Company or Limited Partnership where the shareholder or partners of that Limited Liability Company or Limited Partnership are appointed due to being: i. Trustees of a Masonic Entity, or ii. Appointed by a Lodge or Lodges to be shareholders or partners of that Limited Liability Company or Limited Partnership. To read: r. Masonic Entity means an entity which is; a. governed, controlled, or managed by one or more Freemasons and which has assets which are related to or sourced from Freemasonry; or b. Owned directly or indirectly in the name of one or more Freemasons and where the beneficial interest in that ownership rests with a Lodge or is otherwise related to or sourced from Freemasonry; and shall include: i. Any trust where one or more Freemasons are a trustee, and where they have been appointed as a trustee by virtue of their Masonic connection; and ii. Any limited liability company where one or more Freemasons are a director, shareholder or an officer of the company and where they hold those positions by virtue of their Masonic connection; and iii. Any other type of entity where one or more Freemasons hold positions of authority or influence or where one or more Freemasons hold property for or on behalf of a Lodge or other Masonic Entity; and for the avoidance of doubt the Board shall have the power, upon the request of any Brother, to make a declaration as to whether an entity where one or more Freemasons are involved is or is not a Masonic Entity.
Rationale	The Grand Registrar has identified the current definition has some shortcomings including there are other ways that trustees are being appointed.

4B. LODGE REMITS

The Lodge of Remembrance No. 318 has moved with Lodge Waihopai No. 189 seconding the following Lodge Remit 1, which has been agreed to be put before the Annual Communication by the Southern Region.

REMIT 1	RULE 101 FEES PAYABLE BY LODGES TO GRAND LODGE
	That the Book of Constitution Rule 101 Clause a. be amended by including the following: ‘Capitation Fee’s be exempt for Brethren who have achieved 50 plus years of service, who cannot physically attend Lodge meetings.’ Rule 101 Clauses a. and b, presently read: a. Every Craft Lodge except a <u>Lodge</u> of Research shall, for each financial year of Grand Lodge, pay to the Board of Directors a capitation fee for each member on its roll on the 30th day of June of the preceding financial year. b. Members who have qualified for and been awarded a 70-year service bar will be exempt from the calculation of Capitation Fee in paragraph a. above.
Rationale	The Fee should not be a burden for an individual nor the lodge they belong, Individual Lodge Bylaw’s as defined by Grand Lodge (Template) should not be manipulated to cover these fees Grand Lodge of New Zealand needs to show Compassion, Brotherly love Relief and Truth by looking after these brethren in their days of reflection.
Board of Directors Response	The Board does not support this remit and encourages Lodges to consider other means to support their brethren in need, such as setting up a Lodge benevolence fund if they do not already have one. This topic has been raised at previous Communications and has not been supported by the Lodges on those occasions. While sympathetic to the plight of the elderly, brethren considered it is the role of each Lodge to look well to the needs of their brethren (rather than cast the onus across all Lodges and all brethren). For the current remit, the Board acknowledges that elderly, infirm brethren should be shown Compassion, Brotherly Love and Relief. The accepted position has been that this should be shown by the brethren of their own lodge in the first instance. The remit proposes to exempt brethren with 50 years plus service and who cannot physical attend Lodge meetings. a). There are around 20 Freemasons with over 70 plus years’ service and these brethren already do not pay capitation fees, their capitation cost being covered by the wider membership.

	b). There are approximately another 550 brethren with over 50 years' service making up over 13% of our membership: (i) However not all of these are covered by the remit, which refers to brethren with 50 years' service 'who cannot physically attend meetings'. Regarding that, it is difficult to administer a system recording the physical state of particular brethren – i.e. who decides, when does it apply from, when is someone considered temporarily unable v's permanently unable to. There are practical issues implementing this type of requirement. (ii). In terms of numbers if all brethren over 50 years' service were exempt that would result in a capitation fee increase of nearly \$20 per head for all other brethren.
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Lodge Parahaki No. 269 has moved with Lodge Hatea No. 431 seconding the following Lodge Remits 2-5, which have been agreed to be put before the Annual Communication by the Upper North Island Region.

REMIT 2	CONSISTENCY OF COLLECTED RULINGS - RULE 222
	That the Book of Constitution Rule 222, clause f., which presently reads: f. The Board may from time to time make and publish Rulings to be known as "Collected Rulings". be amended by adding at the end of that clause the following wording:- <i>A Collected Ruling is subordinate to these Rules. Where a Collected Ruling is inconsistent with a Rule, the Rule prevails and the Collected Ruling has no effect to the extent of the inconsistency.</i>
Rationale	Collected Rulings rest on a single sentence. Rule 222(f) lets the Board make and publish them, but the Constitution never states how they rank against the Rules themselves. The Rules are enacted by the Lodges, voting as Grand Lodge, through the Remit process in Rule 265. Collected Rulings are made by the Board alone. When the two disagree, the Book of Constitution today gives no answer. This amendment supplies the plain one: the Rule prevails. This is not a new principle. It is the one the Constitution already implies. A Collected Ruling is made only under Rule 222(f), a power the Board is lent by Grand Lodge, not one it holds in its own right; and Rule 14(b) provides that delegated authority is exercised "subject to these Rules." Rule 13 reserves to Grand Lodge alone the power of enacting the Craft's laws and regulations and of altering,

	repealing and replacing them. The same order of precedence is the settled rule of public law in New Zealand, where delegated legislation made by the Executive is subordinate to, and cannot override, the Act of Parliament under which it is made. All this amendment does is write that order of precedence into the Book of Constitution so that it is no longer left to inference. The amendment repeals no Collected Ruling. It settles the order of precedence when a Rule and a Collected Ruling conflict: where a Collected Ruling has strayed beyond a Rule, the Rule prevails. That is the whole purpose, and stating it plainly removes the present doubt. It also clears the path for the Craft to legislate by Rule on any matter it chooses: once Grand Lodge has spoken by Rule, no Collected Ruling can stand against it. Where the Rules speak, the Rules govern.
Board of Directors Response	The Board has no issue with the intention of this remit however the wording would fit better under Rule 3. The Board recommends an amendment to the motion.
Suggested Amendment	That the Book of Constitution Rule 3 Construction of the Rules be amended by adding a new clause e. to read: <i>e. A Collected Ruling is subordinate to these Rules. Where a Collected Ruling is inconsistent with a Rule, the Rule prevails, and the Collected Ruling has no effect to the extent of the inconsistency.</i>

REMIT 3	NOTICE OF COLLECTED RULINGS TO GRAND LODGE - RULE 222
	That the Book of Constitution Rule 222, clause f., which presently reads: f. The Board may from time to time make and publish Rulings to be known as "Collected Rulings". be amended by adding at the end of that clause the following wording:- <i>The Board shall notify every Lodge of each Collected Ruling it makes or amends, as soon as practicable after making or amending it, and shall in each year make available to every Lodge a list of the Collected Rulings made or amended in that</i>

	<i>year. The Board shall lay each Collected Ruling so made or amended before the next meeting of Grand Lodge at which business is transacted.</i>
Rationale	Rule 222(f) lets the Board make Collected Rulings, but it does not require the Board to tell anyone. There is no duty to notify the Lodges and no duty to lay a Collected Ruling before Grand Lodge. Yet in practice a Collected Ruling binds every Lodge and every Brother as surely as a Rule. The membership cannot weigh, question, or in time amend what it is not reliably shown. The contrast with the Rules is sharp, and it is already in the Book of Constitution. When a Rule is proposed, Rule 265(h) requires the Board to submit it to every Lodge, with the Board's own explanation, before it can take effect. A Collected Ruling, which takes effect at once, carries no equivalent. The same discipline is standard in the New Zealand Parliament, where every piece of secondary legislation the Executive makes must be presented to the House (Legislation Act 2019, s.114). The Craft presently asks less of its own Board than that. This remit closes the gap in the plainest way, and asks for three things only: that a Lodge be told when a Collected Ruling is made or amended, that it be told promptly, and that once a year it be given a list of what has been made or amended, so that nothing is lost between one notice and the next. The Ruling is then laid before the next meeting of Grand Lodge at which business is transacted, whenever that falls. None of this changes a Collected Ruling or constrains a decision. It ensures only that the Craft can see what has been decided in its name, in time to do something about it.
Board of Directors Response	The Board does not support this remit. The Board notes that all new or amended Collected Rulings are being advised to Brethren and Lodges via the Chair of Directors and Chair of Trustees Meeting Reports. It is in the interest of the organisation for all members to understand matters covered by Collected Rulings as soon as practical. The Board believes there is not a need for the new Collected Rulings to be tabled at a Communication or an Annual Communication. Under "General Business" any brother can raise an item for discussion, and this of course includes any item under a Collected Ruling. Furthermore, as the Board can address a Collected Ruling at any time, an issue raised by a brother or lodge can be addressed when it is raised.

	If a Lodge is unhappy with a Collected Ruling, then a remit can be put up to create a Rule and if that Rule is adopted by the Lodges any inconsistent Collected Ruling will fall away.
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REMIT 4	AMENDMENT OF COLLECTED RULINGS BY GRAND LODGE - RULE 222
	That the Book of Constitution Rule 222, clause f., which presently reads: f. The Board may from time to time make and publish Rulings to be known as "Collected Rulings". be amended by adding at the end of that clause the following wording:- <i>Grand Lodge may by Remit amend any Collected Ruling, and the procedure in Rule 265 applies to such a Remit as it applies to a Remit to amend these Rules. A Collected Ruling so amended shall thereupon become a Rule, in its amended form and as a whole, bearing the number the Remit specifies, and shall cease to be a Collected Ruling. Grand Lodge may also by Remit revoke a Collected Ruling, and the Board shall not remake a Collected Ruling so revoked except by a further Remit. That restriction does not otherwise limit the Board's power to make, amend or revoke Collected Rulings.</i>
Rationale	Rule 222(f) lets the Board make Collected Rulings, but the Book of Constitution gives the membership no way to change one. The Lodges, assembled as Grand Lodge, can ask the Board to reconsider; they cannot decide. This remit changes that, and does so in the way that keeps the two kinds of law distinct. It claims no new power. Rule 13 reserves to Grand Lodge alone "the inherent power of enacting laws and regulations for the government of the Craft and of altering, repealing and replacing them," and any Lodge may already propose a Rule on any subject under Rule 265. What the Book does not supply is the consequence. Where Grand Lodge legislates on a matter a Collected Ruling covers, the Ruling stays on the page contradicting it. This remit provides that where Grand Lodge amends a Collected Ruling by Remit, the Ruling becomes a Rule in its amended form and ceases to be a Collected Ruling. The subject passes into the Rules, where the membership makes and keeps it.

	That keeps the two bodies of law apart. Every Collected Ruling on the page remains wholly the Board's, made and changed by the Board. Every Rule remains the Lodges'. Nothing is created that is partly one and partly the other, and no reader has to be told which is which. It also makes the protection structural rather than stipulated: Rule 265(l) already provides that the Rule 265 process "shall be the sole means of amending these Rules," so a converted Ruling is protected by what it has become, and needs no special lock of its own. Nor is the Board left waiting on a Lodge. Rule 265(k) lets the Board propose a Remit of its own, following sub-clause h. alone, so that it goes straight to every Lodge without the Region stage that a Lodge must pass. The Board's route to a national ballot is shorter than any Lodge's. The power to revoke is retained for the case conversion cannot reach: a Collected Ruling that a Rule has already overtaken, which the Craft wishes to clear rather than leave on the page to mislead. A Ruling so revoked is not to be remade by the Board's own hand, but only by a further Remit, since otherwise a revocation could be undone at the next Board meeting. The Board's day-to-day power over every other Collected Ruling is untouched. The Book already legislates on this ground. Rules 181 to 194 govern regalia in detail, down to an apron of white lamb-skin approximately 375 mms wide with a fall 150 mms deep. Rule 183.b. provides that "Craft Lodge regalia shall not be intermingled with Grand Lodge Regalia"; Collected Ruling 37 provides that the apron, collar and jewel should not "be worn so as to conflict between Grand Lodge Regalia and Craft Lodge Regalia." The same proposition sits in both, and nothing says why one is a Rule and the other is not. Where the Craft wishes to settle such a matter for itself, this remit lets it take the Ruling into the Rules, where its neighbours already are. This is also the ordinary shape of delegated law: in the New Zealand Parliament the House "may amend or replace any secondary legislation to which this subpart applies by resolution" (Legislation Act 2019, s.119), the maker making and the sovereign body unmaking, and where re-making is left to convention a struck-down instrument can simply be reinstated, which is why Australia bars the re-making of an instrument the same in substance for six months after disallowance (Legislation Act 2003, s.48).
Board of Directors Response	The Board does not support this remit as the rule change is unnecessary. The Board notes that a Collected Ruling is a decision of the Board, usually based on advice given to the Board by sub-committees, advisors, or experts in the particular field. It is a governance / management role.

	As per the previous remit if a Lodge is unhappy with any Collected Ruling, then the proper course is to propose a remit through the usual process, and have it voted on. If passed, it will become the Rule which binds everyone, and any inconsistent Collected Ruling will need to be addressed. All Collected Rulings must be consistent with the Rules.
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REMIT 5	CAPITATION LODGE - RULE 101
	That the Book of Constitution Rule 101, clause f., be amended from: f. If any member belongs to more than one Craft Lodge, he may nominate the Lodge by which the capitation fee in respect of himself shall be paid and may from time to time change that nomination. Any nomination must be notified to the Grand Secretary not later than the 30th day of April in each year and shall take effect on the 1st day of July following notification. Until the initial nomination has been notified as aforesaid, each Lodge of which he is a member shall pay the capitation fee. To read:- <i>f. Each member who belongs to a Craft Lodge other than a Lodge of Research shall have one, and only one, of those Lodges as his capitation Lodge, and the capitation fee in respect of himself shall be payable by that Lodge and by no other. His capitation Lodge is the first of those Lodges of which he became a member, unless he has nominated another of them, and he may from time to time change that nomination. A nomination ceases to have effect if he ceases to be a member of the Lodge nominated. Any nomination or change must be notified to the Grand Secretary not later than the 30th day of April in each year and shall take effect on the 1st day of July following notification, and shall apply to the capitation fee for the financial year then commencing.</i> And that Rule 101, clause a., be amended from: a. Every Craft Lodge except a Lodge of Research shall, for each financial year of Grand Lodge, pay to the Board of Directors a capitation fee for each member on its roll on the 30th day of June of the preceding financial year. To read:-

	<i>a. Every Craft Lodge except a Lodge of Research shall, subject to clause f., for each financial year of Grand Lodge, pay to the Board of Directors a capitation fee for each member on its roll on the 30th day of June of the preceding financial year.</i> And that, on the commencement of this amendment, each member's capitation Lodge is the Lodge which the Grand Secretary recorded as liable for that member's capitation immediately before commencement, if that Lodge could be his capitation Lodge under clause f.; and in any other case his capitation Lodge is determined under clause f.
Rationale	The nomination mechanism in Rule 101(f) already assumes a member should ordinarily have a single capitation Lodge; it simply fails to require it, so members can end up with more than one capitation Lodge or, as several non-exempt members presently do, with none recorded at all. This amendment closes that gap with the natural rule: a member joins Lodges one at a time, so his first Craft Lodge is his capitation Lodge, and it stays there until he chooses to move it. The change is small but it does real work. It protects Grand Lodge's income: a member with no capitation Lodge recorded is easily missed, and requiring one (defaulting to his first Lodge) ensures no member is left unrecorded and attracting nothing. It protects the Lodges: none is charged for a member already attracting capitation elsewhere. It gives Grand Lodge one definite Lodge through which to correspond with, account for, and act for each member, which the Service Awards remit uses throughout. And a single clear rule of this kind supports sound data management generally. The member stays in control: the default is only a default, and he may nominate any Lodge of which he is a member, on the existing 30 April to 1 July cycle. Nothing else in Rule 101 changes, the fee is still set by the Board and rises by CPI, and 70-year-bar holders remain exempt. The default reaches only Lodges of which he is presently a member. His capitation Lodge is the first of <i>his</i> Craft Lodges of which he became a member, so a Lodge he has resigned from, or one since dissolved, cannot be it: Rule 2(e) defines a Craft Lodge as one "for the time being holding a Charter," and a Lodge he has left is no longer one of his. For the same reason a nomination lapses if he ceases to be a member of the Lodge nominated, and the default applies again at once, so that he is never for a moment without a capitation Lodge. A Lodge of Research is excluded because clause a. exempts it from capitation. That exemption exists so a Research Lodge may admit members of other constitutions, whose capitation is their own Grand Lodge's concern; it is not

	there to let a member who has a Craft Lodge of his own attract none. A member whose only Lodge is a Lodge of Research is unaffected and continues to attract no capitation, as he does today. Clause a. fixes who is counted, on the roll at 30 June; clause f. fixes who pays, and the closing words put beyond argument that a nomination made by 30 April governs the fee for the year commencing on the following 1 July.
Board of Directors Response	If the Annual Communication prefers to deal with capitation in this new manner, then the Board does not oppose.

Lodge Hatea No. 431 has moved with Lodge Parahaki No. 269 seconding the following Lodge Remit 6, which has been agreed to be put before the Annual Communication by the Upper North Island Region.

REMIT 6	SERVICE AWARDS - RULE 175
	That the Book of Constitution Rule 175 be amended from: There shall be two Service Awards as follows: a. Twenty-Five Year Service Badge i. A Brother who has been a member of a Craft Lodge or a Lodge holding a Charter under a recognised Grand Lodge for twenty-five years or more and who is in good Masonic standing, is eligible to receive a Twenty-Five Year Badge for wearing in Lodge and in public. ii. Application for the Badge may be made to the Grand Secretary in the prescribed form by the Secretary of a Craft Lodge of which the Brother is a member. iii. The Lodge Secretary shall verify the initiation date of the nominee from the records of the Lodge or the individual's Master Mason Certificate. The nominee is to certify on the application form that it is his sincere belief that he is entitled to the Badge by having completed twenty-five years membership of a Lodge under the New Zealand Constitution or other recognised Grand Lodge. The Lodge Secretary is then to request the Badge from the Grand Secretary in the

	prescribed form together with the appropriate fee as set by the Board of Directors. iv. The Grand Secretary shall accept the Brother's record of membership as certified on the application form as being correct. v. The Board of Directors shall have discretion to determine if in any case a period of temporary non-affiliation shall be excluded in computing the nominee's period of service. vi. The Badge shall be presented by the Lodge in such manner as the Master of the Lodge shall determine. b. Fifty Year Service Badge i. A Brother who has been a member of a Craft Lodge or a Lodge holding a Charter under a recognised Grand Lodge for fifty years or more and who is in good Masonic standing, is entitled to receive a Fifty-Year Service Badge and an appropriate miniature for wearing in public. ii. Application for the Badge shall be made to the Grand Secretary in the prescribed form by a Craft Lodge of which the Brother is a member. iii. The Grand Secretary shall verify the Masonic record of the nominee from the records of Grand Lodge, and, if the case requires, by enquiry from any recognised Grand Lodge, and report to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall have a discretion to determine whether in any case a period of temporary non-affiliation shall be excluded in computing the nominee's period of service. iv. The Badge shall be presented in accordance with convenient arrangements made between the recipient's Lodge and its Divisional Grand Master. v. Each subsequent period of ten years' service may be acknowledged by the award of a suitable bar to the badge and to the miniature for which application must be made in accordance with this Rule. To read:- <i>There shall be two Service Awards as follows:</i> <i>a. Fifteen Year Service Badge</i> <i>i. A Brother who has been a member of a Craft Lodge or a Lodge holding a Charter under a recognised Grand Lodge for fifteen years or more and who is in</i>
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	<i>good Masonic standing, is eligible to receive a Fifteen Year Badge for wearing in Lodge and in public.</i> <i>ii. The Grand Secretary shall identify from the records of Grand Lodge each Brother who has completed fifteen years' membership of a Lodge under the New Zealand Constitution or other recognised Grand Lodge, and shall notify his capitation Lodge that the Brother is eligible to receive the Badge.</i> <i>iii. The Grand Secretary shall verify the Brother's Masonic record from the records of Grand Lodge and, where the case requires, by enquiry from any recognised Grand Lodge. His capitation Lodge shall confirm that the Brother is in good Masonic standing, and may supply any records, including the Brother's Master Mason Certificate, where the records of Grand Lodge are incomplete; and where the Lodge so supplies records the Brother is to certify that it is his sincere belief that he is entitled to the Badge by having completed fifteen years' membership of a Lodge under the New Zealand Constitution or other recognised Grand Lodge.</i> <i>iv. The Board of Directors shall have discretion to determine if in any case a period of temporary non-affiliation shall be excluded in computing the Brother's period of service.</i> <i>v. On the request of his capitation Lodge, the Grand Secretary shall issue the Badge and invoice the Lodge for a fee, not exceeding the cost to Grand Lodge of supplying the Badge, as set by the Board of Directors.</i> <i>vi. The Badge shall be presented by his capitation Lodge in such manner as the Master of that Lodge shall determine.</i> <i>b. Thirty Year Service Badge</i> <i>i. A Brother who has been a member of a Craft Lodge or a Lodge holding a Charter under a recognised Grand Lodge for thirty years or more and who is in good Masonic standing, is entitled to receive a Thirty-Year Service Badge and an appropriate miniature for wearing in public.</i> <i>ii. The Grand Secretary shall identify from the records of Grand Lodge each Brother who has completed thirty years' membership of a Lodge under the New Zealand Constitution or other recognised Grand Lodge, and shall notify his capitation Lodge.</i> <i>iii. The Grand Secretary shall verify the Brother's Masonic record from the records of Grand Lodge, and, if the case requires, by enquiry from any recognised Grand Lodge, and report to the Board of Directors. His capitation Lodge shall confirm that the Brother is in good Masonic standing, and may supply any</i>
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records where the records of Grand Lodge are incomplete; and where the Lodge so supplies records the Brother is to certify that it is his sincere belief that he is entitled to the Badge by having completed thirty years' membership of a Lodge under the New Zealand Constitution or other recognised Grand Lodge. The Board of Directors shall have a discretion to determine whether in any case a period of temporary non-affiliation shall be excluded in computing the Brother's period of service.

iv. On the request of his capitation Lodge, the Grand Secretary shall issue the Badge without fee.

v. The Badge shall be presented by his capitation Lodge in such manner as the Master of that Lodge shall determine.

vi. Each subsequent period of ten years' service shall be acknowledged by the award of a suitable bar to the badge and to the miniature, which the Grand Secretary shall identify and notify in the same manner; on the request of his capitation Lodge the Grand Secretary shall issue the bar and invoice the Lodge for a fee, not exceeding the cost to Grand Lodge of supplying the bar, as set by the Board of Directors.

vii. A bar for forty years' service shall be presented in the manner provided by clause b.v. A bar for fifty years' service, and every subsequent bar, shall be presented in accordance with convenient arrangements made between his capitation Lodge and the Grand Superintendent of the Region in which that Lodge is situated.

c. In this Rule, a member's capitation Lodge is the Craft Lodge nominated by him under Rule 101(f), or if he has made no such nomination, the first Craft Lodge of which he became a member.

d. The Grand Secretary shall notify a Brother's capitation Lodge of his eligibility to receive each Service Badge and each bar for which his service qualifies him. Where a notification has been given in error, the Grand Secretary may correct or withdraw it.

e. Every presentation under this Rule shall be made in open Lodge, unless it is determined, having regard to the Brother's circumstances, that it should be made at another place. That determination is for the Master of his capitation Lodge, except that in the case of a bar for fifty years' service or any subsequent bar it is for the Grand Superintendent of the Region.

And that Form 22 in the Schedule of Prescribed Forms (Rule CR-66) be amended from:

	Twenty-five, Fifty, Sixty, Seventy and Eighty Year Service Badge and Bars To read:- <i>Fifteen, Thirty, Forty, Fifty, Sixty, Seventy and Eighty Year Service Badge and Bars</i> And that, on the commencement of this amendment, a Brother who has then already completed fifteen or more years' service shall be notified under this Rule only in respect of the highest Service Badge, and the most recent bar (if any), to which his service has then brought him, and not in respect of any earlier bar; but no Brother shall be notified in respect of a Service Badge naming a lesser period of years than a Service Badge previously issued to him, nor in respect of any bar previously issued to him, nor in respect of any bar naming a period of years not exceeding that named in a Service Badge previously issued to him, and in such a case he shall be notified only of that to which he is newly entitled; and that thereafter this Rule shall apply to him as each further milestone is reached.
Rationale	Rule 175 currently recognises Craft service at twenty-five and fifty years. In practice these milestones fall late in a member's life. A Brother initiated in his forties, increasingly common, does not reach the first badge until around sixty-five, and the second until around ninety. Recognition arriving that late often does not reach the Brother while he is active, and in many cases does not reach him at all. This remit lowers the two Service Awards to fifteen and thirty years, so that service is acknowledged while a Brother is still engaged in the work of his Lodge, with continuing recognition by bar every ten years thereafter. It aligns New Zealand with recognised Grand Lodges that already mark Craft service at shorter intervals, and supports retention and morale, without altering the standard of good Masonic standing that each award requires. The cost to Lodges is contained, and on three points improved. The fee for a Service Badge is presently whatever the Board sets; under this Rule it may not exceed the cost to Grand Lodge of the item, so a Lodge can never be charged more than the award costs. The senior badge, now the thirty year, continues to be issued without any fee, as the fifty year badge is today. And the Grand Secretary issues the award on the Lodge's request and invoices afterwards, rather than requiring the fee to accompany the application, so that no Brother's recognition waits on a payment. Bars now carry that capped fee, where the present Rule leaves the position unclear.

Fifty years becomes a bar rather than a badge, and gains more than it loses. With the two Awards at fifteen and thirty, fifty years falls where sixty, seventy and eighty already fall, and is marked by a bar. That is a real change and it should be said plainly. Against it, three things: no Brother loses a badge already issued to him, and the transitional makes sure of it; fifty years becomes an entitlement rather than a discretion, because clause b.vi now provides that a further period of ten years' service *shall* be acknowledged where the present Rule says *may*; and the presentation occasion is preserved and extended. Today a senior officer attends at fifty years and at no other milestone. Under clause b.vii he attends at fifty, sixty, seventy and eighty, so a Brother of sixty years' service receives, for the first time in this Constitution, the occasion the Book presently reserves to fifty alone. Fewer Brethren now reach fifty years than once did, which is a reason to mark it more carefully rather than less.

What that costs the officers is less, not more. In a typical year the presentations passing to the Grand Superintendents are about forty-four at fifty years, twenty-nine at sixty, eight at seventy and one at eighty, so roughly eighty-one occasions spread across nine Grand Superintendents, about nine each. Today the fifty year badges alone, about forty-four a year, fall to three Divisional Grand Masters, about fifteen each. The occasions nearly double while the load on each officer falls by a third, and each presentation is made by an officer closer to the Brethren concerned.

The volume, stated plainly. On commencement about 2,900 items fall due, being roughly 2,300 badges and 600 bars to about 2,300 Brethren, since no Brother receives more than one badge and one bar. Thereafter about 274 items a year, against about 131 a year of crossings under the present thresholds: roughly 2.1 times the recurring workload. Set against that, about 149 awards a year are actually issued at present, and earlier years ran higher still, so the recurring figure is closer to historical throughput than the comparison with crossings suggests. The commencement duty is to notify, not to despatch, and badges follow as Lodges ask for them.

The present rule does not work, and the record shows it. Because a Lodge Secretary must initiate every application, a substantial number are simply never made: of the Brethren whose Fifty Year Badge was issued since 2020, more than four in ten have no Twenty-Five Year Badge recorded at all. They served twenty-five years, they were entitled, and nobody applied. The failure is not delay in processing, which is prompt once an application arrives, but applications that are never made. That is the defect this remit cures, by asking Grand Lodge to identify the Brother rather than waiting to be told about him.

	The records will carry it. Service computed from Grand Lodge's own membership records agrees exactly with time elapsed since initiation for more than four fifths of current members, and to within a year for over nine tenths, with only a small remainder lacking a usable initiation date. Where the records are incomplete, which is chiefly service under another recognised Constitution, clause a.iii lets the Brother's Lodge supply what is missing, so the gap is met rather than ignored. It also moves the administrative burden from Lodge Secretaries, who under the current rule must initiate every application and in practice rarely do, to Grand Lodge, which holds the membership records centrally and is best placed to identify each milestone as it falls and to notify the responsible Lodge. Because Brethren frequently move between Lodges, and sometimes between jurisdictions, no single Lodge holds a Brother's full service history; only Grand Lodge can track it across Lodges and recognised Grand Lodges, so the task properly sits with the Grand Secretary. He already maintains the central register from which each Brother's service is computed, so this formalizes work he is best placed to do rather than adding a new burden. Directing every duty to a single responsible Lodge, the Brother's capitation Lodge, also removes the doubt over which Lodge must act, so that recognition is not lost between Lodges. Figures in this Rationale are computed from the Grand Lodge membership records as at 26 July 2026, against the 4,384 Brethren living and currently in a New Zealand Craft Lodge other than a Lodge of Research.
Board of Directors Response	The Board does not support passing this remit at this time. The 25- and 50-year badges are longstanding, significant milestones in Freemasonry highly valued by recipients. The Board considered it important to preserve recognition of these achievements rather than introduce replacement badges for shorter periods of service, which could diminish the traditional milestones without providing meaningful benefit. The Grand Superintendent of Ceremonies and the Ceremonial Committee recently issued guidance on the wearing of badges and jewels to align Freemasonry with military etiquette. It recommended that brethren wear fewer badges and jewels. The intent of the remit is to provide earlier and more regular recognition of service as a Freemason. The Board acknowledges this intent and has requested the Membership & Growth Committee to undertake due diligence and research

	of this matter and make a recommendation to the Board in time to present a remit, if required for the Annual Communication in 2027.
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Lodge Parahaki No.269 has moved with Lodge Hatea No.431 seconding the following Lodge Remits 7 to 9, which have been agreed to be put before the Annual Communication by the Upper North Island Region.

REMIT 7	REINSTATEMENT - RULE 111
	That the Book of Constitution Rule 111 be amended from:- a. A Brother who has: i. Resigned from a Lodge with dues unpaid, or ii. Been struck off the membership of a Lodge for non-payment of dues or any other reason, can only become a member again by regular proposition and ballot as a joining member. b. Before the Brother is proposed as a joining member, he must have paid all dues outstanding at the time of his resigning or being struck off, provided that any Lodge to which he owes dues may by resolution discharge him from paying the whole or any part thereof. c. Notice in writing of re-joining, and compliance with this Rule shall be sent to the Grand Secretary, who shall forthwith advise every Lodge to which advice of the resignation or striking off was given. d. Any joining fee shall be paid to Grand Lodge for a Brother re-joining under this Rule. To read with the addition of further wording:- <i>a. A Brother who has:</i> <i>i. Resigned from a Lodge with dues unpaid, or</i>

	<i>ii. Been struck off the membership of a Lodge for non-payment of dues or any other reason, can only become a member again by regular proposition and ballot as a joining member.</i> <i>b. Before the Brother is proposed as a joining member, he must have paid all dues outstanding at the time of his resigning or being struck off, provided that any Lodge to which he owes dues may by resolution discharge him from paying the whole or any part thereof.</i> <i>c. Notice in writing of re-joining, and compliance with this Rule shall be sent to the Grand Secretary, who shall forthwith advise every Lodge to which advice of the resignation or striking off was given.</i> <i>d. Any joining fee shall be paid to Grand Lodge for a Brother re-joining under this Rule.</i> <u><i>e. The dissolution of a Lodge does not extinguish any dues owed to it, and a Brother is not relieved of his obligation under clause b. by reason of that dissolution.</i></u> <u><i>f. Where a Lodge to which a Brother owes dues referred to in clause b. has been dissolved, those dues shall be paid to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary shall pay them over to any Lodge which under the Scheme of Distribution of the dissolved Lodge became entitled to them, and shall otherwise apply them to such charitable purposes and in such manner as the Board of Directors shall decide.</i></u> <u><i>g. The power conferred on a Lodge by clause b. to discharge a Brother from paying the whole or any part of the dues owed to it shall, where that Lodge has been dissolved, be exercisable by the Grand Superintendent of the Geographic Region in which the Lodge proposing him as a joining member is situated, and not otherwise, and if there is no such officer it shall be exercisable by the Board of Directors. Any discharge so granted shall forthwith be reported to the Grand Secretary.</i></u> <u><i>h. Where a Lodge to which a Brother owes dues referred to in clause b. has been dissolved, the Grand Secretary shall determine from the records of Grand Lodge the amount of the dues outstanding at the time the Brother resigned or was struck off. A certificate by the Grand Secretary of that amount, or that no such amount is recorded, shall be accepted by a Lodge as conclusive for the purposes of this Rule.</i></u>
Rationale	Rule 111.b. requires a Brother who resigned with dues unpaid, or who was struck off, to clear those dues before he may be proposed as a joining member.

A Lodge receiving such a proposition must satisfy itself that the Rule has been complied with, or the proposition is irregular. Where the former Lodge has since been dissolved, the Book of Constitution gives the Secretary or Treasurer no answer to any of the three questions he must settle: whether anything is still owed, to whom it is to be paid, and whether any part of it may be forgiven. Officers acting in good faith on identical facts can reach opposite conclusions, and neither can be shown to be wrong.

This is not a hypothetical. Brethren are struck off for non-payment of dues every year, and in most years more than once. How many of them later seek to re-join after the Lodge they owed has been dissolved is not separately recorded, but the number is not nil, and the question has already had to be answered in practice. It was resolved from the records of Grand Lodge, which is where the answer lies. What the Book did not supply was any rule saying so, and this amendment supplies it, so that the next Lodge Secretary reaches the same answer from the Rule itself rather than by enquiry. Rarity is not the test. A Secretary faced with the question cannot decline to answer it, the proposition is irregular if he answers it wrongly, and the Book presently gives him nothing to go on. A rare question that cannot be answered is worse than a common one that can, and this one recurs.

The principle should not be in doubt. An obligation freely undertaken is not discharged by the misfortune of the party to whom it is owed. A man may fairly be measured by whether he satisfies his obligations, and a Freemason, who assumes his Obligation at the altar, doubly so. The closing of a Lodge is a sorrow to its members; it should not also operate as a release of those who owed it money.

Nor is the principle in clause e. a new one. Rule 105.c. already deems a Brother who resigns in arrears to be suspended from every other Lodge of which he is a member until the dues are paid, so the Book already treats the obligation as following him beyond the Lodge to which he owed it. Clause e. applies the same principle where that Lodge has closed.

The existing Rules point the same way, but never say so. Unpaid dues are an asset of the Lodge, and on dissolution Rule 117.d.iv. transfers a dissolved Lodge's remaining assets to the Grand Secretary, to be applied to such charitable purposes as the Board of Directors decides. A Lodge dissolved under Rule 118 is wound up by the Divisional Grand Master under Rule 118.c. The debt therefore passes and has a proper destination on either route. Because Rule 111 says none of this, the officer must assemble it from rules that never mention him.

	Nor were the arrears a paper loss. Under Rule 101.a. a Lodge pays Grand Lodge a capitation fee for every member on its roll, whether or not that member has paid his own dues, and Rules 92.b., 93.b. and 94.c. each confirm that the Lodge remains liable to Grand Lodge in respect of a member who pays nothing. For every year a member remained on the roll in arrears, his Lodge met that cost from the subscriptions of the Brethren who did pay. The sum is real money, already laid out by the rest of the membership. This amendment changes nothing that Rule 111 now provides. It states that dissolution does not extinguish the obligation, names the Grand Secretary as the person to be paid, and places the power of mercy already in clause b., where no Lodge survives to exercise it, with the Grand Superintendent of the Region of the Lodge proposing him, so that it is exercised close to the Brethren concerned. Relief therefore remains open to a Brother who genuinely cannot pay, and a Brother is not treated more harshly merely because his former Lodge happened to close. But relief must be granted as a considered decision, as it must be by a Lodge today, and not arise of itself from the closing of a Lodge.
Board of Directors Response	The Board supports this rule change The Board notes this is detailing the process to gain re-admission after resigning with dues unpaid. The Board considers this a logical solution that a closed lodge dues get paid to the lodge named in a Schedule of Distribution, if one exists. Currently the dues are paid to The Freemasons Charity.

REMIT 8	ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS - RULES 219 AND 196
	That the Book of Constitution Rule 219 (Accounts) be amended from: The Board of Directors shall require proper accounts to be kept and shall make available to Grand Lodge at the Communication or Annual Communication not less than 21 days prior to the holding of the meeting, detailed financial statements and related reports and do all such other things as may be necessary to give Grand Lodge full information respecting the receipt and application of its funds and property.

To read:-

a. The Board of Directors shall require proper accounts to be kept, and shall, within four months after the end of each financial year, make available to every Lodge and publish on the Freemasons New Zealand website detailed financial statements and related reports, and do all such other things as may be necessary to give Grand Lodge full information respecting the receipt and application of its funds and property.

b. In each year the audited financial statements, together with the Board's annual report under Rule 225, shall be submitted to the Lodges for adoption by a ballot conducted by the Grand Secretary, which shall close no later than 30 November in that year. The financial statements are adopted if a majority of the Lodges voting are in favour.

c. A ballot under this Rule may be conducted by post or by electronic means, or by both. The Grand Secretary shall determine the form of the ballot paper and, where the ballot is conducted by electronic means, the electronic method to be used, which shall be a method generally available to Lodges, and shall ensure that a Lodge without electronic means may cast its vote by post.

d. A Lodge's vote must be authorised by any two of the Master, Secretary, Senior Warden or Junior Warden, and must reach the address shown on or before the date shown. In a postal ballot the voting paper shall be signed by those two officers; in an electronic ballot the vote shall be returned from the Lodge's registered electronic address, or by such other electronic method as the Grand Secretary makes available, and shall identify the two officers authorising it. Votes received after the date shown are invalid.

e. Adoption is the endorsement of Grand Lodge and does not affect the responsibility of the Board of Directors for the preparation, approval and audit of the financial statements.

f. The audited financial statements, and the result of the ballot, shall be laid before Grand Lodge at the next meeting of Grand Lodge at which business is transacted; and where the financial statements are not adopted, the Board of Directors shall account for them at that meeting.

And that Rule 220 (Audit), clause a., be amended from:

a. The Grand Lodge accounts shall be audited annually and submitted with an auditor's certificate to Communication or Annual Communication with the copy of the accounts being made available to members of Grand Lodge on the Freemasons New Zealand Website.

	To read:- <i>a. The Grand Lodge accounts shall be audited annually and the audited accounts, together with the auditor's certificate, shall in each year be made available to every Lodge and to members of Grand Lodge on the Freemasons New Zealand Website, and shall be laid before Grand Lodge at the next meeting of Grand Lodge at which business is transacted.</i> And that Rule 225 (Annual Report), clause a., be amended from: a. The Board of Directors shall make available to Grand Lodge at every Communication or Annual Communication not less than 21 days prior to the holding of the Communication or Annual Communication, a report of the Board's activities covering the financial year just ended and of any recommendations it may think fit to make. Any such recommendation requiring a change to the Rules shall be considered at the next Communication, Annual Communication or Special Communication. To read:- <i>a. The Board of Directors shall, in each year, make available to every Lodge a report of the Board's activities covering the financial year just ended and of any recommendations it may think fit to make. Any such recommendation requiring a change to the Rules shall be considered at the next meeting of Grand Lodge at which business is transacted.</i> And that Rule 228 (The Freemasons Charity), clause c., be amended from: c. The Freemasons Charity shall submit to the Board of Directors not less than 21 days prior to the holding of the Communication or Annual Communication, a Report on its activities undertaken during the preceding financial year. Such Report shall be made available to Grand Lodge at each Communication, Annual Communication. Any Lodge may request a copy of the Report. To read:- <i>c. The Freemasons Charity shall, in each year, submit to the Board of Directors a Report on its activities undertaken during the preceding financial year. Such Report shall be made available to every Lodge and laid before Grand Lodge at the next meeting of Grand Lodge at which business is transacted. Any Lodge may request a copy of the Report.</i> And that Rule 196 (Special Communication) be amended by inserting the following new clause b., the existing clauses b., c., d., e. and f. being renumbered c., d., e., f. and g., the new clause b. to read:-
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	<i>b. Notwithstanding clause a., the Grand Master, or if he is unavailable the next senior available Grand Lodge Officer, shall summon a Special Communication on the written requisition of not fewer than one-tenth of the Lodges holding a Charter under the Grand Lodge. The requisition shall state the business proposed to be transacted, and the Special Communication shall be held within three months after the requisition is received by the Grand Secretary.</i> And that the renumbered clause c. (the location of the Special Communication, formerly clause b.) be amended from: The Special Communication shall be held at a location and on the date set by the Officer calling it, in consultation with the Grand Secretary. To read:- <i>The Special Communication shall be held on the date, and at the place or by the electronic means (or both), set by the Officer calling it in consultation with the Grand Secretary; and, notwithstanding Rule CR-134, any vote taken at it shall be taken in such manner (whether by physical or electronic means or both) as the Grand Secretary determines to be fair. Nothing in this Rule limits the power of the Grand Master to require that Grand Lodge assemble in person.</i>
Rationale	Grand Lodge presently sees its accounts, its auditor's certificate, the Board's annual report and the report of The Freemasons Charity when it meets, and each of those Rules ties the duty to a meeting. The Lodges receive them if they attend. This remit ties the duty to the year instead of to the meeting: the accounts and the reports go to every Lodge each year and are published, whether or not Grand Lodge assembles. It then gives the Lodges something they do not have today, which is a say on the finances. The audited statements and the Board's report are submitted to the Lodges for adoption by ballot each year, closing 30 November, so that the membership passes judgment on the accounts annually rather than whenever it happens to be in the room. Adoption is endorsement, and clause e. says so plainly: the Board remains responsible for the preparation, approval and audit of the statements, as it must. What adoption adds is a recorded answer from the Lodges, and an obligation on the Board to account for the statements at the next meeting where they are not adopted. The timetable follows the Book. Rule 218 ends the financial year on 30 June, so publication within four months falls on 31 October and the ballot closes a month later, before Lodges go quiet over the summer. The first full cycle would be the accounts for the year ending 30 June 2027.

	The requisition right is the substantial addition. At present a meeting of Grand Lodge happens when the Grand Master or his senior officers decide it should. Rule 196 lets the Grand Master summon a Special Communication "whenever the good of the Craft may require it," and there the matter rests. Under new clause b. one-tenth of the Lodges may compel one, within three months, on business they state themselves. That last point matters more than it looks: Rule 197(g) leaves the Board to determine the order of business at a Communication, and Rule 196 does not apply Rule 197 to a Special Communication at all, while Rule 196(d) confines a Special Communication to the business set out in its summons. A requisition therefore carries its own agenda, which no meeting of Grand Lodge presently does. And the right is made usable. A requisition that obliged every Lodge to send a representative across the country would be a right in name. The amended clause c. lets a Special Communication be held by electronic means, or partly so, with the manner of voting settled by the Grand Secretary, while expressly preserving the Grand Master's power to require that Grand Lodge assemble in person. None of this removes anything. Grand Lodge continues to meet as it does now, the Grand Master's power to summon a Special Communication is untouched, and the Board's responsibilities are unchanged. The Craft simply sees its accounts every year, says whether it accepts them, and can call itself together when a tenth of the Lodges think it should.
Board of Directors Response	The Board does not support this remit and makes the following observations on various aspects. The Board understands this remit proposes: - Annual audited accounts provided to lodges by 31 October each year - Ballot by Lodges to be held by 30 November - Annual report from Board on activities to go to Lodges - Annual Report from The Freemasons Charity (TFC) to go to Lodges - Power for 10% of Lodges to compel the holding of a Special Communication, to be held within 3 months, Lodges stipulate the business to be transacted. The Board notes that requiring the reports etc. not less than 21 days prior to a Communication was introduced decades ago to ensure Lodges got the information timely prior to gathering to discuss the detail. No last-minute papers dropped in your lap at a Communication / Annul Communication. Changing to a fixed date can create the previous problem – last minute arrival of

	important information which Lodges haven't considered but which brethren are expected to vote on. Last year the Communication was held over Labour Weekend i.e. prior to the 31 October deadline for the accounts to be furnished. If there is a Communication / Annual Communication being held in a particular year, then presumably the ballot by Lodges will be the vote at that meeting – the two will not run in parallel. The Board and TFC reports go to Lodges annually at present – the Board questions the requirement for a ballot each year and what that actually achieves? Also as Freemasons it brings into question whether we trust the actions and activities of those who are leading our organisation? With Region and Divisional conferences there are ample opportunities to raise questions and listen to answers. Currently the Grand Master has the power to call a Special Communication – only used twice recent memory being on matters that could not wait until the usual Business Session held at a Communication / Annual Communication, and now made easier by holding of Annual Communications in non-Communication years. It is very unusual to hold a Special Communication. It is not held just to carry out some general business – it requires something urgent that cannot be determined by the Board, or by postal/electronic voting under R 265. The idea that Grand Lodge could be forced to hold a Special Communication because 10% of the Lodges demanded it, is a process that needs careful consideration. There is already the ability to attend a meeting of Grand Lodge annually. Furthermore, if a matter is of such importance then representation to the Grand Master is already in place.
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The following remit cannot take effect on its own. It is conditional on the accountabilities in the companion remit (Remit 8), *Annual Accounts and Special Communications (Rules 219 and 196)*, being in force at the same time or earlier.

REMIT 9	THE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION - RULE 195A
	That the Book of Constitution Rule 195A be amended from: 195A. Annual Communication a. An Annual Communication of Grand Lodge shall be held each year between Grand Installations, in the month of October or November, at a location and on a date determined by the Board of Directors, in consultation with the Grand Secretary. b. The Grand Secretary, shall at least two months before the date fixed for an Annual Communication, make available to every Lodge and to every Officer of Grand Lodge a Notice summoning the Annual Communication together with a statement of the business to be transacted. c. The requires for a Communication set out in Rules 197 to 203 shall apply to an Annual Communication. To read:- <i>Repealed.</i> And that Rule 220 (Audit), clause b., be amended from: b. The Auditor shall be appointed by Grand Lodge at Communication or Annual Communication and shall be paid such fee as may be agreed between the Auditor and the Board of Directors. To read:- <i>b. The Auditor shall be appointed triennially by Grand Lodge and shall be paid such fee as may be agreed between the Auditor and the Board of Directors.</i> (This restores the wording of the 2019 and 2022 editions. Clause c., empowering the Board to appoint a replacement Auditor, is unchanged and covers any gap between triennial appointments.) And that Rule 101 (Fees Payable by Lodges to Grand Lodge), clause e., be amended from:

e. If in any case the Board of Directors seeks to set a fee for a financial year which may exceed the fee calculated as per paragraph d above, that fee shall be determined either: i. by postal ballot; ii. at Communication or Annual Communication; to take effect for the next financial year.

To read:-

e. If in any case the Board of Directors seeks to set a fee for a financial year which may exceed the fee calculated as per paragraph d above, that fee shall be determined either: i. by postal ballot; ii. at a Communication; to take effect for the next financial year.

And that, consequentially, the term "Annual Communication" (and "Annual Communications") be deleted where it appears as a meeting type in the following Rules, so that each list reads as "Communication" and "Special Communication" only:

Rule	Amended from	To read:-
2(d) and 3(d)	...shall not include an Annual Communication nor a Special Communication...	<i>...shall not include a Special Communication...</i>
14(b)	...may exercise this power acting in Communication, Annual Communication, Special Communication...	<i>...may exercise this power acting in Communication or Special Communication...</i>
240(a)	...Grand Lodge in Communication, Annual Communication or Special Communication.	<i>...Grand Lodge in Communication or Special Communication.</i>
244(f)	...at its next Communication, Annual Communication, Special Communication and published...	<i>...at its next Communication or Special Communication and published...</i>
265(a)	...at any Communication, Annual Communication, Special Communication or in the manner following.	<i>...at any Communication or Special Communication, or in the manner following.</i>

	<table><tr><td>265(c)</td><td>...at any Communication, Annual Communication, Special Communication shall be dealt with...</td><td><i>...at any Communication or Special Communication shall be dealt with...</i></td></tr></table>	265(c)	...at any Communication, Annual Communication, Special Communication shall be dealt with...	<i>...at any Communication or Special Communication shall be dealt with...</i>
265(c)	...at any Communication, Annual Communication, Special Communication shall be dealt with...	<i>...at any Communication or Special Communication shall be dealt with...</i>		
	Six places recording meetings that actually happened are deliberately left unchanged: the enacting-history preamble reciting meetings held "at Communication, Annual Communication, Special Communication ... in the period from the 22nd day of November 2002 until 9th November 2024"; and Rules 86, 144(b), 159(g) and 179(a), each reading "Repealed 2024 Annual Communication" or "Repealed Annual Communication 2024", together with the matching Table of Contents entry. The Table of Contents entry "195A. Annual Communication" is updated to read "Repealed". Three Collected Rulings are not amended. CR-25(h), which applies the Rules of Debate to each kind of meeting; the heading of CR-134, on ballots at meetings of Grand Lodge; and CR-135, on postal ballots, also name the Annual Communication. Collected Rulings are made and amended by the Board of Directors under Rule 222(f). Nothing turns on it: each reference simply names a meeting that will no longer be held, and each clause continues to operate for the Communication and the Special Communication. The Board is invited to bring the three into line at its convenience. And that this Remit shall not take effect unless, at the same time or earlier, there takes effect provision of these Rules: requiring the audited financial statements, the auditor's certificate, the Board's annual report and the report of The Freemasons Charity to be made available to every Lodge in each year; providing for an annual ballot of the Lodges upon the financial statements; and enabling not fewer than one-tenth of the Lodges to requisition a Special Communication, which may be held by electronic means.			
Rationale	Until 2023 the Book of Constitution did not require an Annual Communication. From 2010 the constitution provided for a single Communication of Grand Lodge every third year, in conjunction with the Grand Installation (Rule 195), together with Special Communications summoned by the Grand Master when the good of the Craft required it (Rule 196). The November 2019 and August 2022 editions both ran on this triennial model and contained no Rule 195A. The Annual Communication was adopted only at a Special Communication in 2023 and first held in 2024; it first appears in the November 2023 edition. The Board's stated purpose at the time was to			

	"enable the holding of an Annual Communication and provide flexibility of dates and locations" for the triennial cycle, not to satisfy any governance requirement, and that flexibility concerned the triennial Grand Installation, which this remit leaves untouched. In practice the Annual Communication is an expensive physical gathering, and the obligation to hold it is a separate thing from the ability to hold it. This remit removes the recently added obligation and returns Grand Lodge to the model under which it governed itself for more than a decade, while keeping an in-person gathering available whenever it is actually wanted, through the Grand Master's power to summon a Special Communication and, under the companion remit, the new power of the Lodges to requisition one. Yearly accountability is not lost, and this remit will not operate unless it is strengthened. The 2019 and 2022 Rules 219 and 220 already governed the off-years expressly: the accounts were made available to every member of Grand Lodge, adopted no later than 30 November each year, and audited annually, with the Auditor appointed triennially. The companion remit re-bases the present rules on the same footing and improves on it, the accounts being adopted each year by a ballot of the Lodges rather than by the Board alone. The condition at the foot of this remit means that if those accountabilities are not in force, this remit does nothing at all. What it means in practice, stated plainly. Grand Installations fall in 2025 and 2028, so if this remit is carried at the Annual Communication in November 2026 and comes into force on 1 December 2026 under Rule 265(i), there is no meeting of Grand Lodge in 2027, and the next is the Communication and Grand Installation in late 2028. The Lodges should decide knowing that. Two things fill the interval. The accounts for the year ending 30 June 2027 are published by 31 October 2027 and balloted upon by 30 November 2027, so the Craft passes judgment on the finances in precisely the year in which no meeting would be held. And one-tenth of the Lodges may at any time require a Special Communication on business of their own choosing, which is a power the membership does not have today. The change is otherwise narrow. The triennial Communication and Grand Installation (Rule 195) are untouched, so the installation of the Grand Master and elective Grand Officers, already a three-year cycle, is unaffected. The ordinary capitation fee continues to be fixed by the Board and to rise by CPI without any meeting. Members keep a regular regional forum through Divisional Conferences (Rule 139). And remits are unaffected: Rule 265(h) already provides that the Board submits a Remit to all Lodges with voting
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	"postal or electronic as the Board shall determine," so the Craft's power to amend its own Constitution has never depended on assembling.
Board of Directors Response	The Board does not support this remit. The Board notes that holding an Annual Communication was only reestablished in 2023 after a period where Grand Lodge only met every three years. This had been offset by the concept that remits would be voted on at Divisional Conferences. The reality was that system was not working, as not all brethren were able to hear the debate, and the timing of the conferences meant that results of any ballots were often known at different times. The Board proposed, and brethren agreed, that reinstating Annual Communications was beneficial to the democratic processes of the organisation. It is still early days. Only one Annual Communication has been held. The next is coming up. Another meeting will be important for next year as there are decisions around retaining or not the current Divisional structure. Accordingly we are mid-way through a major restructuring process for Freemasonry and the Board questions whether we want to make this change before the other agreed changes have been bedded down? In regard to costs of holding Annual Communications the Board and National Office have been moving to make online participation and voting more manageable, and therefore reduce the cost.