



To –

**Provincial Grand Secretaries
District Grand Secretaries
Grand Superintendents
Secretaries of Lodges which are under the direct supervision of Grand Lodge
Secretaries of daughter Lodges (for information)**

31st August 2023

Dear Sir and Brother,

COMPLETION AND RETURN OF FORMS RELATING TO CHARITABLE GIVING

I am aware that the Scottish Craft donates to many worthwhile charitable causes worldwide. In addition, I know that support is also given by way of Masonic benevolence. The provision of statistics by Daughter Lodges, Provincial Grand Lodges and District Grand Lodges in relation to their charitable giving is requested annually and this information is essential to enable an accurate overview of our overall charitable giving to be compiled. **Historically the response to the request to provide this information has regrettably been very poor – your help in reversing this trend following the change of procedure which was implemented last year would be greatly appreciated.**

At its meeting on 4th August 2021, the Benevolence and Care Committee agreed that an alternative protocol would be put in place in an effort to improve the percentage return of the above forms. To this end, as intimated at the meetings of Provincial Grand Masters and of District Grand Masters, the system for completion and submission of the forms by daughter Lodges was altered so that all forms would be issued, collected and returned via Provinces, Districts and Grand Superintendencies. **In order to streamline the process further, arrangements have been made so that completion can now be done online by daughter Lodge Secretaries who can, once completed, submit the form electronically directly to Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh.**

It will remain the responsibility of Provinces and Districts, as at present, to ensure that the Provincial and District returns are accurately completed and again these should be in the same manner. It would further be appreciated if Provincial and District Grand Secretaries and Grand Superintendents could monitor the return of forms by daughter Lodges to ensure that the fullest information possible is used to compile details of charitable giving throughout the Scottish Craft.

We can be justifiably proud of our rich tradition of philanthropy and accurate details will enable the charitable work of the Scottish Craft to be more effectively recorded and promoted – therefore, I am sure you will agree that to share this information can only be a positive thing.

The Chairman and Members of the Benevolence and Care Committee and the Trustees of Grand Lodge join me in thanking you in anticipation of your co-operation.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

William M.S. Semple
Grand Secretary

Courtesy Copies to – Provincial and District Grand Masters and Brother Alexander C. G. Moncrieff