

To District Grand Masters, Secretaries and Almoners, Grand Superintendents, and Masters, Secretaries and Almoners of daughter Lodges under the direct supervision of Grand Lodge.

Grand Lodge of Scotland
COLLECTION IN AID OF THE BENEVOLENT FUNDS IN TERMS OF LAWS 101 AND 138

Freemasons' Hall
96 George Street
Edinburgh
EH2 3DH
September 2023

Dear Sir and Brother,

The Right Worshipful Grand Almoner, Brother Thomas Davidson, has asked me to issue the following letter for your consideration.

Yours faithfully and fraternally



William M.S. Semple
Grand Secretary

"Brethren,

We have returned to normal masonic activity after some difficult years, with the number of visitors to our lodges steadily increasing. The installation of the Office-bearers in any Lodge or Provincial Grand Lodge is a time to look forward to the future, it is also a time to take a moment to reflect on our successes.

Following the success of the MAKE IT A MILLION campaign on behalf of Prostate Scotland where the amount raised reached £1.125M, the Grand Master Mason decided that Lodges, Provincial Grand Lodges, District Grand Lodges and Superintendencies should pursue their support for their own chosen external charities and local communities. Brethren throughout Scotland and beyond have again risen to these challenges with their usual ingenuity and generosity.

In Scotland, funds raised here allowed Grand Lodge to continue the relationship with Prostate Scotland on a number of legacy projects, whilst overseas many District Grand Lodges have started initiatives supporting and raising awareness of various aspects of men's health and community projects.

Grand Lodge and all of us as Scottish Freemasons have ongoing long term commitments to beneficiaries as well as needing to react to emergencies abroad on your behalf.

In the past twenty years donations to the Benevolent Fund averaged over the period was £260k annually, however in the past five years the average dropped to £201k whilst outgoings continue to increase. When adjusted to reflect current buying power the effect of the drop is even greater. We are all experiencing more difficult economic times however the benevolent work of Grand Lodge needs to continue, funding this work comes from the collections uplifted at lodge installations.

At this installation, I ask you to think of these figures and give as generously as you can to ensure the benevolent work of Grand Lodge can continue. Thank you for your consideration and support".

**Tom Davidson
Grand Almoner**