



**THE FREEMASONS'  
GRAND CHARITY**

60 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AZ  
T: 020 7395 9261 F: 020 7395 9295  
info@the-grand-charity.org  
www.grandcharity.org

To all Provincial Grand Almoners  
and Provincial Grand Secretaries

**Assistance following flood damage**

The enclosed information was sent to all Provinces in July 2007. Sadly, there has been further serious flooding recently in parts the UK and so a similar need for assistance will, no doubt, once again exist.

The Council of The Grand Charity wishes to assist where circumstances permit and hopes that the enclosed information will enable applications to be made swiftly, once actual need is established.

Although your Province may not be affected on this occasion, there may be other situations that require some form of urgent help. These will be considered in the same way.

If you would like to talk to a member of staff before making a written application, please do not hesitate to telephone The Grand Charity office.

8 September 2008

# Application to The Freemasons' Grand Charity following damage by floods

## GUIDANCE NOTES

**Following the recent flooding** in several parts on the UK, it is likely that Freemasons and their dependents will be amongst those affected.

In situations where assistance is not available to them from the government **and/or** from insurance; or where more urgent funds are required and their own limited finances cannot cover the needed expenditure; the Council of the Grand Charity will consider **special applications**.

**Please remember** that the Grand Charity cannot provide an open-ended commitment to help and due diligence must be applied as in all cases.

### 1. Applications:

- a. Application forms should, therefore, be completed where possible.
- b. One-off requests for assistance will be accepted by letter if sufficient information is provided, **and** an assurance is given that the recorded facts are true to the best of your knowledge.
- c. This will be particularly useful in situations where a Notice of Assessment, which would otherwise be required to accompany any formal application form, is not immediately available.
- d. However, requests for ongoing day-to-day living expenses should be made in the usual way, and an application will be considered, even if a separate emergency grant is made.

### 2. Information required when applying for urgent financial assistance for flood relief:

- a. The applicant's name, age, address, associated Lodge.
- b. The number of people usually living in the property.
- c. An indication of their current financial circumstances.
- d. If an applicant does not receive Means Tested Benefits, what is the total net income of the household and what is the total amount of capital – (not including their residence) - held by the applicant and spouse/partner?
- e. Has the family income altered as a result of the flooding?
- f. Are there any special health or disability problems?
- g. Are they fully insured for the damage to their property, contents and livelihood?

### Other relevant questions:

1. What help is likely to come from the government's Social Fund and when might this be available?
2. Is the specific expense for which assistance is requested covered by insurance and when is it expected that this will be paid out (if there is good reason why charitable funds are urgently required for items that are otherwise covered by insurance, the circumstances should be fully explained)?
3. When will the applicant be able to return to his/her own home and what arrangements have been made until then?
4. If the applicant is living in temporary accommodation, what additional costs, not met elsewhere, are involved and how long is this expected to continue?

*continued .....*

5. What are the most urgent items that need replacing in order for the applicant to carry out a usual daily routine (it is anticipated that white goods like fridges, freezers, ovens and washing machines will be amongst the most important requirements)?
6. From news reports it is understood that in some areas people must pay towards the clear-up operations around their own homes. If these or any similar costs are involved, please give details.
7. All items of expenditure should be detailed (listed) separately and estimates of the costs should be obtained. Where a specific model of the equipment required has not yet been identified, the MRG Committee may have to guess at an amount if one is not given.
8. Structural repairs are likely to be costly and no one should be encouraged to believe that The Grand Charity is necessarily able to help in these situations. However, some smaller repairs may be considered or perhaps a contribution towards them.
9. The Victor Donaldson Fund of the RMBI should also be considered in appropriate cases.
10. Finally, whilst the Council of The Grand Charity will consider any application for assistance, it must be careful not to let people believe that all their needs can be met from its funds. These are limited and should only be used when other more appropriate sources are unavailable.