

DISTRICT GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF DOWN

DISTRICT GRAND KING

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DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND KING

R.E.Comp. Alan Ferris



DISTRICT ASSISTANT GRAND KING

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16th September 2021

On behalf of Down Masonic Widows Fund

Covid-19 High Street Voucher applications

As you are no doubt aware the voucher scheme of £100.00 for those aged 18 and over opens on 27th September 2021, closing on 25th October.

In the Province of Down alone we have almost 1000 Masonic Widows attached to our Lodges and they will all be eligible. The system for claiming this £100 voucher is predominately accessed by an online application, although a telephone line will be available on 11th October. We are aware that many of our widows are not competent with electronic systems, and we do not want them to miss out. There is almost £100,000 at stake here. Many of our senior Brethren are also in the same position and perhaps may require assistance.

We would therefore urge our Lodge Secretaries and Almoners, indeed all our Brethren, to ensure that these vulnerable people are assisted in every possible way to help get their claim processed. Perhaps even some technical help could be afforded to them in order to give support.

Part of the process is to first register with NI Direct and following that, to then make the application. This is sometimes not an easy process, even for those who are competent with computer systems. Please do all you can to assist.

We would remind you that, as the pandemic continues, you should observe social distancing and comply at all times with the current legislation and Department of Health advice of the day.

Do your best Brethren and ensure that our Widows and Senior Brethren do not miss out.

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Noel Sufferin
Secretary

Down Masonic Widows' Fund
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