



UNITED GRAND LODGE  
OF ENGLAND

# Data Protection Notice

of the United Grand Lodge of England and Supreme Grand Chapter



SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER  
OF ENGLAND

## Your data

**Section I** sets out how your data will be used if you apply for initiation, exaltation, joining or re-joining a Lodge or Chapter.

**Section II** sets out how your data will be used if you are a Freemason.

**Section III** sets out how your data may be used by Masonic charities if you are a Freemason.

**Section IV** provides more detail about how data about any criminal convictions will be used if applicable.

**Section V** provides more detail about how your data will be stored for archive purposes in the public interest and for historical research.

**Section VI** provides more detail about how your data may be used to send the magazine Freemasonry Today to you if you are a Freemason.

**Section VII** sets out how your data may be used if you choose to communicate with, volunteer for, serve on the committees of, visit or work for the United Grand Lodge of England or Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England at Freemasons' Hall.

**Section VIII** contains some definitions for terms used in this notice.

If you have any questions about this notice then please contact [dataprotection@ugle.org.uk](mailto:dataprotection@ugle.org.uk).

### I. Application for initiation, exaltation, joining or re-joining

As a candidate, you consent to the processing, retention and sharing of your personal data submitted on or with your application, including details of criminal convictions if applicable, for the purpose of assessing your membership application and any other Masonic applications you may make.

The assessment of your application will include printing some of your personal details on the summons which is sent to all of the members of the Lodge or Chapter to which you are applying. Those details are your full name, age, profession or occupation (if any), place or places of abode, business address or addresses and names of your proposer and seconder.

You can withdraw your consent and request erasure of your application data at any time prior to your initiation, exaltation, joining or re-joining by notifying your proposer and seconder that you wish to cancel your application.

### II. Use of your data when you are a Freemason

As a Freemason your data will be processed, retained and shared for any reasonable purposes required by the Book of Constitutions, the Royal Arch Regulations or the bodies they sanction from time to time. These purposes include, but are not limited to, the following purposes:

1. Assessing any Masonic applications you make;
2. Registering you as a member of Freemasonry;
3. Receiving communications to which you are entitled as a Mason;
4. Recording the progress of your career in Freemasonry;
5. Masonic disciplinary processes;
6. If you resign or are expelled from membership, maintaining records to prevent you from improperly re-applying for membership; and
7. Maintaining records of your career in Freemasonry for archive and historical purposes.

You may stop your data from being used for all purposes except 6. and 7. above by resigning from the United Grand Lodge of England and, if applicable, the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England using the processes prescribed by their respective constitutions. **If you resign or are expelled, personal data relating to your membership will normally be retained and processed by the United Grand Lodge of England for 100 years for purpose 6. and indefinitely for purpose 7.** Other Masonic entities may also keep historic records, for example once you cease to be a member of a Lodge your personal details will remain in Lodge minute books which cover the period in which you were a subscribing member.

Your data may also be used immediately after you resign from a Lodge or Chapter to contact you for the purposes of understanding why you resigned and if applicable to assist you in finding an appropriate Lodge to join.

You may request access to the data held about you by each Masonic entity, and rectification of that data if applicable, or object to the processing of that data, by submitting a request to the relevant Masonic entity.

The secretary of your Lodge and, if applicable, Scribe E. of your Chapter will provide on request details of your data controllers and their contact details. The United Grand Lodge of England and Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England are at Freemasons' Hall, 60 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AZ. Their data protection officer can be contacted at [dataprotection@ugle.org.uk](mailto:dataprotection@ugle.org.uk).

The legal bases on which your personal data will be used in accordance with this Section II are:

- a. the legitimate interests of Masonic entities as not for profit membership organisations; and
- b. the fulfilment of contractual obligations owed to you by your Lodge or Chapter supported by its affiliated Masonic entities.

### **III. Masonic charities**

Masonic charities need to keep their donor databases accurate and up to date. If you choose to provide your name and residential address to a Masonic charity, then Masonic entities may permit those Masonic charities to verify their donor databases against your name and address data that Masonic entities hold. The legal basis for this processing is the legitimate interests of that charity.

Masonic charities provide, among other work, support to Masons, former Masons and their relatives. Masonic entities would like to be able to share your personal data with recognised Masonic charities so that the charities can process it:

1. on receipt of an application for relief, to determine whether you or your relatives are eligible beneficiaries; and
2. where you have separately consented to a Masonic charity contacting you with fundraising materials, to allow that charity to update your contact details in their fundraising database by viewing your contact details held by Masonic entities.

Your data will not be processed by Masonic charities for purposes 1. or 2. of this Section III unless you have provided your consent. You may change these two optional consents at any time by emailing [dataprotection@ugle.org.uk](mailto:dataprotection@ugle.org.uk).

### **IV. Criminal convictions**

Criminal conviction data will only be used by your Lodge, the relevant Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge and the United Grand Lodge of England to:

1. determine your suitability to become a Freemason;
2. determine your suitability to remain a Freemason; or
3. maintain records to prevent you from improperly re-applying for membership if you have ceased to be a Freemason by resignation or expulsion.

Freemasons are expected to conform to high standards. In relation to purpose 1. above, as a candidate you must disclose any criminal convictions, except that you may choose whether to disclose a conviction if it is spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. The legal basis on which this data is processed is your consent. You can withdraw your consent and request erasure of your criminal conviction data at any time by notifying your proposer and seconder that you wish to cancel your application.

If convicted of an offence when a Freemason, you must report certain criminal convictions to your Lodge Master or the Grand Secretary in accordance with Rule 179A of the Book of Constitutions. The Master of your Lodge may also report such convictions to other Masonic entities in accordance with the Book of Constitutions and the disciplinary processes of Freemasonry. These reports are made for purpose 2. above and data in them can be retained for purpose 3. above. The legal basis on which this data is processed is the legitimate interests of the Masonic entities as membership organisations in upholding their values. The processing falls within the "processing by not-for-profit bodies" exemption to permit processing of criminal convictions data.

#### **V. Archiving and historical research**

Many Masonic records which may contain your data are archived for the public interest and kept for historical research. When they are no longer needed by the relevant Masonic Entity they are loaned or given to the Library and Museum of Freemasonry, a charity registered in England with charity registration number 1058497. The records which are loaned are transferred permanently to the charity when the Masonic Entity considers appropriate.

The charity currently restricts access to the records for 70 years except where they might contain sensitive personal information in which case access is restricted for 100 years. These periods are subject to change to reflect best practice. During this time only you or your legal representative will be able to view your personal data. After this time the records are made available to academic researchers and others in accordance with the charity's work. More information about the charity's work can be found at [www.freemasonry.london.museum](http://www.freemasonry.london.museum).

#### **VI. Freemasonry Today**

Every subscribing member of a Lodge in London or a Province who has a UK address registered with United Grand Lodge of England is entitled to receive a copy of the quarterly magazine, Freemasonry Today. The magazine is published by Grand Lodge Publications Limited, a company ultimately controlled by United Grand Lodge of England. If you are entitled to receive a copy then your name and address will be shared quarterly with Grand Lodge Publications Limited for the sole purpose of sending the magazine to you. The legal basis for this use of your data is the legitimate interests of United Grand Lodge of England as a membership organisation. If you would prefer not to receive the magazine in hard copy then please use the "remove from mailing list" option at <https://www.freemasonrytoday.com/contact-us>.

If you have a visual impairment and request an audio version of Freemasonry Today then with your consent United Grand Lodge of England will share your name and address with its chosen distributor from time to time of the audio versions. If you receive the audio version then United Grand Lodge of England will share your name, address and subscribing status with the distributor for the purpose of keeping the distributor's records accurate and up to date.

#### **VII. Other uses**

**Communications** - If you communicate with the United Grand Lodge of England or the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England they may monitor, record, store and use any telephone, email, webform or other communication with you in order to communicate with you in relation to your query, respond to the issues raised or deal with them in accordance with the Book of Constitutions or Royal Arch Regulations, check any instructions given to them and improve the quality of the services they offer. The legal basis for this processing is the legitimate interests of each as a membership organisation.

**Surveys** - If you complete any of the surveys that the United Grand Lodge of England or the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England use to collect feedback after their events then the data you submit may be used to contact you if there are specific concerns raised but otherwise will be used in aggregated, anonymised form. The legal basis for this processing is your consent.

**Volunteering** - If you volunteer for any committees or other roles at the United Grand Lodge of England or the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England then they will process your name, contact details and any other personal data relevant to the role for the purposes of enabling that role to be performed safely and efficiently including security passes and login details if applicable. The legal basis for this processing is your consent.

If you accept promotion to a Grand Rank or to Metropolitan, Provincial, District or overseas Grand Rank then your name and office will be printed in relevant yearbooks and elsewhere. Your contact details may be included in relevant yearbooks and elsewhere to the extent necessary so that you can be contacted in order to discharge the functions of your office.

**Freemasons' Hall** - If you choose to visit Freemasons' Hall at 60 Great Queen Street, London then your image will be recorded by a CCTV system operated by the United Grand Lodge of England. The purpose of the CCTV is to protect the health and safety of all building users, protect the premises and to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour. The legal basis for this processing is the legitimate interests of the United Grand Lodge of England as owner and occupier of the premises.

If you choose to use the public wifi internet access at Freemasons' Hall using a personal electronic device the United Grand Lodge of England will store and process details of that device for the purpose of providing the wifi to you. The United Grand Lodge of England may also store and process details of the websites that you visit using the wifi for its monitoring and administrative purposes and for crime prevention purposes.

**Employees and contractors** - The United Grand Lodge of England uses the data of employees for the purposes of performing their contracts of employment and for other purposes which are required by the law or which fall within its legitimate interests as an employer, including sharing that data where appropriate with pension providers and HMRC. Further detail is set out in the employee privacy notice available from HR and the data protection policy in the United Grand Lodge of England staff handbook.

The United Grand Lodge of England and the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England use the data of contractors for the purposes of performing their contracts and for any other purposes which are required by the law.

### **VIII. Definitions**

**"Book of Constitutions"** means the General Laws and Regulations for the Government of the Craft of the United Grand Lodge of England from time to time.

**"Masonic entities"** includes any Lodges or Chapters you join or have joined, their Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodges and Chapters and the United Grand Lodge of England and, if applicable, the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England. Each applicable Masonic entity will be a data controller.

**"Royal Arch Regulations"** means the General Regulations of the Supreme Grand Chapter of England from time to time.

If you have any questions or complaints about how your data is processed please contact the relevant Masonic entity. If you have raised your concerns but not received a satisfactory response you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office or outside the UK to your local supervisory authority (if applicable). More information about UK complaints can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>.