

Provincial Grand Lodge – 13th May 2016.

Verbal Report.

This will be the last report given that details the assistance given by the Freemasons' Grand Charity, the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, the Royal Masonic trust for Girls and Boys and the Masonic Samaritan Fund. As you are aware, from the 1st April this year all four come under the umbrella of the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

Brethren and their dependants have continued to receive much needed assistance in the past year from these Main Charities, but overall the amount distributed has been much less than the previous year. This has mainly been due to the trend of increased benefits, employment opportunities or the death of the beneficiary. Pleased to say that this Province has seen an increase which will be explained in a few minutes.

Freemasons' Grand Charity.

The last financial year has seen the award of Masonic Relief Grants total £2.53m to 1,054 beneficiaries. This represented a fall of 0.4m on the previous year. The number of applicants were also down, and early indications are that this trend is continuing. The total in grants for this Province, including Hospice Grants, amounted to £127,170 down again by 13k on the previous year, similar to 2014/15.

Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

Continues to provide sheltered, residential and nursing care for an average of 1,021 residents in its 17 Homes around the Country with running costs of £39m. Up 2m on previous year. Following the payment of fees by residents the shortfall is £2.0m.

The running costs of AEPOWC total £2.531m, and the cost met by the RMBI for the 38 residents relative to this Province for the past year amounted to £264k.

R.M.T.G.B.

Total grants to beneficiaries was £5m an increase of £200k for just over 1,400 beneficiaries. Fifty one children in our own Province were supported, plus one through the Trust's "Talent Aid Scheme". Almost the same number as last year. The total distributed was £168,322 an increase of over £55k.

M.S.F.

Total expenditure by the Charity was £3.3m. for 1,312 applications. This was a drop overall of over £800k and reduction of 162 applicants. However, as far as our Province is concerned has not been an increase in the number of applications, but those approved cost £358,669k an increase of just under £30k. Grants were mainly for medical assistance.

Summary.

F.G.C.	127,170	(140,615)
R.M.T.G.B.	168,332	(112,820)
R.M.B.I.	264,006	(69,000)
M.S.F.	358,669	(329,097)
	Total.	£918,177
(700,097)		

An overall increase on the previous year of £218,080.

Thank you for your kind attention.