



## Obtaining help from West Riding Masonic Care and Support Fund

Having recently been told by several brothers that CHOICES is no more, so no help is available locally, I thought I should post an explanation of the present situation.

**West Riding Care and Support Fund**, the less lyrical successor to CHOICES, carries on the same work, but under its new name. This information has been sent out many times in the recent past, so I intend to use the same approach in this fact sheet as the “For Dummies” book franchise - To teach those who do not know, but also provide a useful reference for

those who are aware. Before I do so, please note I will abbreviate the name to C&SF at times during the following.

For starters:

### What does West Riding Masonic Care & Support Fund do?

It “does what it says on the tin”, providing care and support to people in their own homes to keep them living independently, and delivers this help by providing emergency financial grants, and carrying out home repairs and improvements to allow brethren of lodges in the province to remain in their homes for as long as possible.

Although it has not got the resources of the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the fund is much more agile and can provide short-term relief much faster than MCF.

C&SF is not limited in the scope of the help it offers, and if you are unsure whether the request you wish to make will be considered, please ask, do not assume that no help is available.

### How do I access the fund?

You can apply in complete confidence to the fund directly by calling the Provincial Confidential Helpline **03449 020 220** or using the Confidential Help Mail. [helpline@wrprovince.com](mailto:helpline@wrprovince.com) . Alternatively, you can access help through your lodge almoner.

All almoners have received copies of the application forms for help from C&SF, which is in two parts, a Data Protection Act authority that must be completed and signed by the applicant and an application form.

The application form should be completed giving contact details and particulars of the applicant and a summary of the reason for the application.

Once the form has been completed it should be e-mailed together with a scanned copy of the DPA authority to your Area Assistant Almoner, or if they are unavailable the Provincial Almoner. The e-mail addresses for the Assistant Almoners are included in the schedule held by your almoner and are included on this page.

### **What happens next?**

Upon receipt, the form you complete is checked for completeness and transcribed onto another form, signed electronically, and passed to the C&SF team. If any further information is required, you will be contacted so the form can be revised before being submitted to the fund.

Due to the confidential nature of the assistance given, the lodge almoner will hear nothing more unless the recipient tells him, but you can be sure help will be forthcoming to all those in need.

**Bob Greening-Jackson**  
**Provincial Almoner**