**THE GUILD OF FREEMEN OF THE CITY OF LONDON**

**FORMAL DINNER DRESS CODE AND ETIQUETTE**

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR GUESTS ARE MADE AWARE OF THE PROTOCOLS DETAILED BELOW
AND THAT PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE TAKEN BY OUR GUILD PHOTOGRAPHER AT THIS EVENT.**

**ALL MOBILE PHONES MUST BE SWITCHED OFF AT ALL TIMES.
There is strictly no photography or filming by camera or phone during the Dinner and Speeches.**

**SECURITY
All guests** must ensure that they bring their Invitation Cards.

**DRESS CODE**Black Tie.
Decorations should be worn and dress details are as below:

**BLACK TIE
Gentlemen:** Black dinner jacket and matching trousers, white plain cotton dress shirt, black bow tie, black shoes. Word of caution: **‘black tie’ means a black tie,** not a multi coloured one, or variations thereof; also coloured shirts and waistcoats are **NOT** worn.
**Military:** Mess Undress (2B).
**Please note**: Hall staff have a discretion not to admit guests who are inappropriately dressed.

**Ladies**: Full-length evening dress or cocktail dress plus accessories to complete the ensemble**.**

**WHITE TIE
Gentlemen:** Black evening tailcoat and matching black trousers, white plain stiff-fronted cotton shirt with a winged collar, white bow tie, white low-cut waistcoat, black leather shoes.
**Ladies:** Formal full-length dress or skirt and evening top and shoulders covered. A tiara may be worn.
**Military:** Mess Dress (2As).

**SEATING**All guests will be given a Programme on arrival and before being received. This shows the names of all attendees in alphabetical order with their Table and seating allocation.
It is not appropriate to switch assigned seats.

**IT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE** for those during Dinner to wander around to speak to other attendees. If you wish to speak to others, you should do so at the Reception prior to Dinner.
**IT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE** to remove your jacket under any circumstances, unless the Master announces that you may due to weather.

**COMFORT BREAKS**Whilst we do not expect anyone to be uncomfortable, traditionally, it is not usual for guests to rise before the Loyal Toast. The order of events after the meal is normally:

1. Loyal Toasts
2. Coffee
3. Speeches and Toasts

Whilst there is no ‘official comfort break’ the most convenient time to leave the table is following the clearance of dessert or when coffee is being served. It should be noted that if speeches have commenced you will not be permitted to return to your seat until the speaker has finished.

However, we would not wish our guests to be uncomfortable, and for those who cannot wait, it is acceptable to slip out unobtrusively at an appropriate moment. Guests should be sensitive to the proceedings when returning to their place.

**It is not acceptable to go outside for a ‘cigarette’ break or to vape at the table.**

**PHOTOGRAPHS**The Guild uses an official Photographer at all dinners and these photos will be made available for download on the website under galleries. Former photos by Peter Holland, can be ordered from him directly. All other photos can be downloaded for personal use.