

## Tom Minogue

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**Subject:** freemasons 2

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The Scotsman

July 2, 1996, Tuesday

SECTION: Pg. 8

LENGTH: 1647 words

HEADLINE: Freemasons in Scotland The brothers in law

BYLINE: Stephen Breen Nic Outterside

BODY:

IN January 1994 the Labour MP Dennis Skinner asked how many Masons held positions within the Government and called for the Prime Minister to "come clean." He also called on Masons to declare membership in the register of members' interests.

The response of the public services minister, David Davis, was non-committal: "I have no notion of whether there are any Freemasons in the Cabinet, although I suspect not."

Last year, amid fears expressed in the House of Commons by a number of Labour MPs that Masonic influence may be used to pervert justice and affect individual careers, it was announced that the Nolan Committee might investigate Freemasonry as part of its review of standards in public life.

However, last week a spokesman for the Nolan committee said it now seemed unlikely that the Brotherhood would be scrutinised by the committee when it looks at the running of local government, but confirmed the Masons would be covered by the home affairs select committee when it begins inquiries into the police and judiciary this month. Despite the strong working-class membership of Freemasonry in Scotland, more than three-quarters of Labour MPs who responded to a Scotsman survey on the subject believed that membership of the Brotherhood was either incompatible with open government, or that MPs should be forced to declare whether they are Freemasons.

This is in marked contrast to the response from their Conservative colleagues who either declared that Freemasonry was compatible, or avoided answering the question.

The Scotsman polled Scotland's 65 male MPs - female MPs were not included as no Scottish lodge admits women and, as outsiders viewing an all-male domain, their answers may have unfairly skewed the survey.

We asked five questions:

oAre you a Freemason?

oTo the best of your knowledge what percentage of MPs are Freemasons?

oAre you aware of any Masonic lodges at Westminster?

oHave you ever experienced or been aware of instances when Masonic influence has been improperly used to gain advantages for Masons?

oDo you think Freemasonry or membership of any secret society is compatible with accountability and open government?

A total of 39 MPs responded to the survey. The 60 per cent response is higher than any

previous survey of Freemasonry. A total of 24 (53 per cent) of Labour's 45 male MPs returned completed questionnaires.

George Robertson, the shadow Scottish secretary, said: "I am not a Freemason, have never been a Freemason and do not intend ever to be a Freemason."

Those that did not respond were: Henry McLeish (Fife Central), Jimmy Hood (Clydesdale), Norman Hogg (Cumbernauld & Kilsyth), John McFall (Dumbarton), Ernie Ross (Dundee West), Gordon Brown (Dunfermline East), Adam Ingram (East Kilbride), Michael Connarty (Falkirk East), John Maxton (Glasgow Cathcart), Ian Davidson (Glasgow Govan), Jimmy Dunnachie (Glasgow Pollok), Jimmy Wray (Glasgow Provan), David Marshall (Glasgow Shettleston), Willie McKelvey (Kilmarnock), Dr Lewis Moonie (Kirkcaldy), Tom Clarke (Monklands West), Dr John Reid (Motherwell North), Dr Jeremy Bray (Motherwell South), Gordon McMaster (Paisley South), Tommy Graham (Renfrew West & Inverclyde), Tommy McAvoy (Glasgow Rutherglen) and Sam Galbraith (Strathkelvin & Bearsden).

WESTMINSTER has at least three lodges, one for MPs and officials - the New Welcome Lodge which meets five times a year at Freemasons Hall in London. There is another lodge for journalists. The Lodge of St James is for members and senior officers of both Houses. A fourth lodge is believed to exist in the House of Lords, although this has never been confirmed.

There may be as many as 50 MPs who are Freemasons, according to experts who have studied Freemasonry. Most are thought to be Tory MPs, though The Scotsman knows of at least three Scottish Labour MPs who are Masons.

The Edinburgh South MP, Nigel Griffiths, claimed Freemasonry was "rife" at Westminster, while his colleague Alistair Darling, the MP for Edinburgh Central, said "rumours abound" in the House of Commons about Masonic lodges. Mr Darling said he believed membership of any society "which could influence the judgment or work of an MP ought to be disclosed".

Dennis Canavan, the Labour MP for Falkirk West, said: "I dare say there are some good people in Masonic lodges carrying out charitable works, but I would have thought in this day and age for grown men to behave in such a secretive fashion, the rolling up of trouser legs and putting on a blindfold, is a piece of nonsense." Mr Canavan has also called on the Nolan committee to demand that all elected officials publicly register if they are Freemasons.

Brian Donohoe, the Labour MP for Cunninghame South, said: "As a trade union official I saw Freemasonry working at industrial tribunals and at disciplinary appeals. It is particularly prominent in the west of Scotland where people are being dismissed and are in an appeal situation where you can hear and know precisely what they're saying.

"They just signal the fact that they are Masons to whoever is hearing the appeal. It can be successful, but it can also work in the opposite way when the employer can signal to whoever is hearing the tribunal and it can go against the poor sod who is being dismissed."

Brian Wilson, Labour's transport spokesman, believes that Freemasonry is compatible with open government, but said membership "should be declared".

However, Eric Clarke, the MP for Midlothian, said it should be up to the conscience of MPs to declare if they are Masons. "I had an old man who took me under his wing who was an active Mason and never once did he try to influence me," he said. "He was a marvellous man who really practised the brotherhood of man."

Seven of Scotland's ten Tory MPs replied to The Scotsman survey. Those who did not respond were the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, and Scottish Office ministers, Raymond Robertson and George Kynoch. Five Tory MPs declared they were not Freemasons and Lord James Douglas-Hamilton declined to answer the question.

The Ayr MP, Phil Gallie, sent an acerbic letter demanding to know whether the Scotsman journalists conducting the survey were trade union members, homosexuals, company shareholders and what salary they received. Mr Gallie added: "I trust the questions are not too intrusive, but, given your public role as a journalist, and the influence you have on public perceptions, it is important that I, and others, should be aware of your background, such that we can judge motivation and form a balanced opinion."

The Scotsman answered Mr Gallie's questions. Mr Gallie responded, saying he was indeed a Freemason, but had never come across a lodge at Westminster and believed Freemasonry

is compatible with democracy.

The Defence Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, answered the survey directly. But the Galloway MP and President of the Board of Trade, Ian Lang, said as "a Government minister" he "makes it a rule not to complete any questionnaires." His secretary answered on his behalf, stating that she "knew he was not a Freemason" and he was not aware of any Masonic influence in politics.

The Tayside North MP, Bill Walker, was the only Tory MP to show variance from his colleagues, stating: "In principle I am against joining secret organisations, but believe it is a matter of personal choice."

All eight Liberal Democrat male MPs replied to the survey, each declaring that they were not Freemasons. The Scottish Lib-Dem leader, Jim Wallace, along with three of his colleagues, stated that "membership of any secret society should be declared".

Robert MacLennan stood alone by stating that membership of "a private society" was not contrary to the public interest. Archy Kirkwood, the Roxburgh and Berwickshire MP, said he believed declaration of membership would be "impossible to police" while the Inverness MP, Russell Johnston, added: "Seems a bit absurd to be asked to declare membership of a secret society."

Neither of the SNP's two male MPs, Alex Salmond or Andrew Welsh, responded to the questionnaire.

IN 1987, MARTIN Short, the author of the authoritative Inside the Brotherhood - Further Secrets of the Freemasons, conducted his own survey of Freemasonry among all 622 UK male MPs. He received 278 replies.

Mr Short was surprised by the strength of anti-Mason feeling among Labour MPs. A total of 95 per cent of Labour MPs said that MPs should be "obliged to declare membership of Freemasonry" and 23 per cent of Tory MPs felt the same.

Mr Short established that Neil Thorne and Sir Gerard Vaughan, the former Conservative health minister, were Freemasons from their listing in that year's Masonic Year Book.

Seven other MPs told Mr Short that they were Freemasons, including the Ulster Unionist Cecil Walker, Anthony Nelson (Conservative, Chichester) and Tony Baldry (Conservative, Banbury). Mr Short identified another four MPs as Freemasons, including the former Tory party chairman, Cecil Parkinson.

"Freemasonry is a mechanism of social control and the Conservative Party is one of the main beneficiaries," asserted Mr Short.

In 1992 the Labour MP Chris Mullin, who has campaigned against Freemasonry, led a House of Commons debate on his Secret Societies (Declaration) Bill, which required holders of or candidates for appointment or election to public office or a post held in public service to declare publicly their membership of any secret society.

Despite tacit support from the Prime Minister, John Major, the bill was "talked-out" but provided the catalyst for the home affairs select committee inquiry into Freemasonry which begins taking evidence this month and is scheduled to begin hearings in December.

The results of The Scotsman survey will be handed to the select committee.

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July 2, 1996, Tuesday

SECTION: Pg. 1

LENGTH: 336 words

HEADLINE: MPs' fears over secrecy threat to democracy Freemasons in Scotland

BYLINE: Nic Outterside And Stephen Breen

BODY:

SIX out of ten Scottish male MPs who responded to a Scotsman survey say Freemasonry is incompatible with open government or believe that membership should be declared in the register of MPs' interests.

As the Commons home affairs select committee prepares to take evidence about Freemasonry in the police and judiciary in England and Wales, day two of The Scotsman's investigation reveals unease among MPs about Freemasonry in public life. All 65 of Scotland's male MPs were asked a series of questions, including whether they were Freemasons. A total of 39 responded. More than three-quarters of Labour MPs who replied said Freemasonry was incompatible with open government or said that MPs should be forced to declare whether they are Masons. Conservative MPs consistently defended the right of Masons to maintain their secrecy while serving as MPs.

Twenty-four of Labour's 45 male MPs returned completed questionnaires; 79 per cent of them expressed concern about the secrecy of Freemasonry.

Seven of Scotland's 10 Tory MPs replied. Among those who did not respond were the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth.

Five Tory MPs said they were not Freemasons, but Lord James Douglas-Hamilton declined to answer the question.

The Ayr MP, Phil Gallie, retorted by demanding first to know the salaries of the Scotsman journalists conducting the survey and whether they were trade unionists or homosexuals. After they answered his questions, Mr Gallie admitted that he was a Freemason and believed it was compatible in a democracy.

The Eastwood MP, Allan Stewart, encapsulated the general Tory line: "We have not yet I hope reached the stage of banning MPs from being members of organisations within the law," he said.

Neither of the SNP's two male MPs responded.

Experts in Freemasonry believe there may be as many as 50 MP Masons. Most are thought to be Tories but The Scotsman knows of three Scottish Labour MPs who are Masons - each has been identified by fellow Labour MPs.

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July 2, 1996, Tuesday

SECTION: Pg. 8

LENGTH: 527 words

HEADLINE: Peer group at head Freemasons in Scotland of the craft

BYLINE: Stephen Breen Nic Outterside

BODY:

FREEMASONRY is "a fraternity largely made up of mercantile, middle-class England", says Martin Short, the author of Inside the Brotherhood - Further Secrets of the Freemasons.

In Scotland the secret brotherhood, which has more than 100,000 members, has a more working-class ethos, he maintains.

However, there is a more complex paradox: Scotland has many more aristocratic Masons than does England. In 1989 Mr Short identified 36 Masons in the House of Lords of whom 27 were senior office holders. Of these Masons 23 were Conservative, eight Independents (which usually means unaffiliated Tories), two Social Democrats, one Labour, one Liberal and one undeclared. One of the more prominent Masons is John Ganzoni, the 2nd Lord Belstead, and government minister between 1970 and 1974 and 1979 and 1987.

In 1988 he became Leader of the House of Lords in succession to the Scots-born Viscount Whitelaw, who had been Mrs Thatcher's deputy prime minister.

"To have two leaders of the Lords in succession who are Freemasons is some achievement for a fraternity whose influence is generally believed to be on the wane," observed Mr Short.

Lord Whitelaw's Masonic past is well documented, but in 1988 Mr Short asked him directly whether he had maintained an active role in Freemasonry. Lord Whitelaw responded: "I am in fact a Freemason and was a member of a Scottish lodge many years ago. I have never been an active Freemason since I entered the House of Commons in 1955."

But according to both the 1990 and 1996 Grand Lodge of Scotland Year Books, The Viscount Whitelaw of Penrith is the Master of the district Lodge No 623 St John (Jamaica). He is also the Scottish Grand Lodge representative of the "Sister Grand Lodge" of New South Wales in Australia. To fill both roles, Lord Whitelaw would be an active Mason and have maintained a level of activity to attain those leading positions.

One of Lord Whitelaw's close friends is the Duke of Argyll, who as well as being a Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Scotland is also master of Her Majesty's Household in Scotland.

This follows a long tradition of Royal patronage of Freemasonry. King George VI was a keen member. The Duke of Edinburgh was initiated to the Navy Lodge No 2612 in 1952, but claims he has since taken no active part.

However, the Duke of Kent, initiated in 1964, was made Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England in 1967 and since then has been the originator of more openness in Freemasonry.

Among more than 14 peers with Scottish titles or Scottish lands, identified by The Scotsman as Freemasons, are: HRH Prince Michael of Kent; the current Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland the Rt Hon Lord Burton of Dochfour; the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine (formerly Lord Bruce) a former Lord High Commissioner to General Assembly Church of Scotland and past Grand Master; Lord Belhaven and Stenton; the Rt Hon Lord Swansea; the Rt Hon Earl of Balfour, a former East Lothian councillor ; the Rt Hon Earl of Eglinton and Winton - whose residence is in Perth - a past Assistant Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England.

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Copyright 1996 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.  
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July 3, 1996, Wednesday

SECTION: Pg. 8

LENGTH: 665 words

HEADLINE: Unwritten laws that rule traders Freemasons in Scotland

BYLINE: Stephen Breen Nic Outterside

BODY:

THE leader of Scotland's small business community described his one experience of Freemasonry in a small town as like "dealing with the mafia".

Bill Anderson said the Brotherhood appeared to have an all-pervading influence in Argyll, reducing one lodge member to a state of terror when he became involved in a dispute with one of his brethren.

Leading figures in the Scottish business community told The Scotsman that Freemasonry was virtually unheard of at the top of Scottish industry and commerce, but the craft does appear still to have significant pull in some small towns where lodge membership can be seen as a prerequisite for success in business.

Mr Anderson, the Scottish secretary of the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), said: "The one time I dealt with the Masons it was like dealing with the mafia. It was over ten years ago in Argyll when a member of the local Masons was running a general shop but he also started selling flowers. A high-up Mason decided that this was not fair because there is an unwritten law that they must not compete with one another, so he was informed that he should stop selling them. He said no and it was as if the bones were pointed towards him. He was totally ostracised and threatened with being banned from the lodge. The lodge was going to tell their members to stop buying produce from him. "He was very upset and felt real fear. I'd never seen anything quite like it. He appealed to the Grand Master of Scotland, but it was a stone wall he was dealing with.

"My reaction would have been 'two fingers' to the Masons, but he was very upset and said I didn't understand how important it was to his family for him to be in the Masons. He said it was just terrible."

Mr Anderson, as secretary of the FSB, intervened on behalf of the businessman. He said he wrote to the leading Mason in Argyll and to the Grand Master Mason of Scotland, but he again "met a stone wall".

"It was made quite clear to me that there was nothing I could do about it. I can't think of any other organisation that could have that kind of hold over people. He was talking as if it was some kind of all-powerful organisation and that's not healthy because it inhibits free trade. If the Masons are not allowed to compete with one another in the open market then that could extend to the awarding of contracts and could go into the council. That's very worrying."

However, according to leading finance and industry figures, Freemasonry is virtually non-existent at a high level.

Sir Charles Fraser, formerly on the boards of United Biscuits, STV, Stakis and Scottish Widows, said: "I'm not a Freemason nor have I come across it."

Another senior Scottish business figure said: "Although I'm not a Mason, I get a few Masonic handshakes. The high heid yins come from distinguished families, but I would guess it's a bit downmarket these days."

Another influential Scottish businessman said: "I knew business people in Scotland who became members here before going to America. I don't think it's sinister, but it is prestigious there and can give you an entry into an excellent social circle."

Fraser Morrison, the chairman and managing director of Morrison Construction, said: "I have never come across it playing any part at all in Scottish business.

"That's maybe an indication of how much influence it has. I couldn't quote a single

Scottish businessman who is a member."

Lord Weir, chairman of Weir Group, said: "It's not an issue that's ever come up at all."

Dr George Mathewson, chief executive of the Royal Bank of Scotland, said: "I'm not a Mason. I've never found any sinister influence, although like any other social activity, such as membership of golf or rugby clubs, it may oil the wheels of transactions."

Another senior banking figure said he had heard rumours that Freemasonry was influential in Scottish banking 40 to 50 years ago, but he had no indication that it was important today.

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July 3, 1996, Wednesday

SECTION: Pg. 8

LENGTH: 1281 words

HEADLINE: In the grip of the craft Freemasons in Scotland

BYLINE: Stephen Breen Nic Outterside

BODY:

SCOTLAND'S eight chief constables have been criticised by MPs campaigning for openness in the police for failing to disclose if they are Freemasons.

The House of Commons home affairs select committee begins taking written evidence this month about the influence of Freemasonry in the police and judiciary in England and Wales. It will examine whether police officers, lawyers, magistrates and judges should be compelled to reveal their membership of secret societies.

To find out if the craft holds any sway within the police north of the Border, The Scotsman wrote to each of Scotland's eight chief constables asking if they were lodge members, but they declined to answer, referring the matter to the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland. ACPOS said it was a "private matter". However, Chris Mullin, the Sunderland Labour MP whose efforts secured the Home Affairs select committee investigation, disagrees. "It is not a personal matter for chief constables. If police officers won't admit they are members of secret societies it damages public confidence in the police."

The Labour MP for Edinburgh South, Nigel Griffiths, also expressed concerns: "It does reinforce my worst suspicions that Freemasonry is something that could be abused and people don't wish it to be made public. If they declared it would greatly clear the air."

Martin Short, the author Inside the Brotherhood, has estimated that 20 per cent of Britain's officers are Masons. He joined the criticism of Scotland's chief constables, saying: "It is unacceptable that police officers are allowed to be members of secret societies while at the same time serving the public."

Mr Mullin said police membership of Masonic lodges raised questions about whether it

distorted promotion prospects, influenced the course of investigations, or resulted in Masonic criminals being protected from prosecution.

Jim Fraser, the chairman of the Scottish Police Federation, said Freemasonry was not an issue among the police in Scotland and he saw no need for officers to declare if they were lodge members. Twice in the past five years the Police Federation in England and Wales has rejected calls for officers to make it known if they are Masons - by 492 to 391 votes in 1993.

"I don't see an advantage to that," said Mr Fraser. "The issue is: are police officers discharging their duties to the satisfaction of the public, the procurator-fiscal and their superiors? If an officer is doing that, it doesn't matter if he is a Mason, a member of the Knights of St Columba (a Catholic organisation) or a member of a golf club. The public have to have confidence that if they have a complaint against a police officer it will be dealt with properly, and the system is in place already."

The Police Complaints Authority, which investigates disciplinary cases south of the Border, told the Home Affairs select committee last December that all police officers should announce if they are lodge members. This would remove "lingering suspicions" of Masonic influence in the handling of investigations. There is no equivalent to the PCA in Scotland.

One senior Lothian and Borders officer said "the right handshake" was influential in police promotions even up to ten years ago, but equal opportunities legislation had greatly reduced the scope of Masons to elevate their brethren.

The officer said he suspected that in the past Masonic criminals might have been protected by policemen in the lodge. He had dealt with complaints, which meant he saw some "curious" decisions by the procurator-fiscal not to prosecute. "I've no concrete evidence, but some of the decisions really made you wonder."

He had refused on several occasions to join a lodge and believes his colleagues should be open about membership.

A college lecturer who previously conducted police promotional examinations for Scottish forces said Freemasonry and Protestant sectarianism hampered Catholic officers from rising through the ranks.

"The exams were an educational qualification prerequisite to promotion, but because officers often had to wait for vacancies to occur, passing the exam did not necessarily mean instant promotion," he said.

"What I noticed was that in the case of Catholic police officers, they often had to wait until they had passed their inspector's exam before even being considered for a vacancy as a sergeant."

In one division of an East of Scotland force, complaints about it being a "bastion" of Freemasonry and Protestantism were met with the token promotion of a popular Catholic constable to sergeant, he said.

There have been no Masonic police corruption scandals in Scotland, but in England, hard evidence has emerged that some forces, particularly the Metropolitan Police, are riddled with Freemasonry and that lodge membership has been abused.

In 1977, 13 Metropolitan Police detectives were jailed for taking bribes while working for the pornography squad. Almost all were Masons, claims Martin Short.

In 1985 the then Metropolitan Commissioner, Sir Kenneth Newman, said he believed officers should quit the craft if they wanted to command the respect of their colleagues and the public. A passage in his pamphlet, *The Principles of Policing*, which was written by Newman's assistant commissioner, Albert Laugharne, stated: "The police officer's special dilemma is the conflict between his service declaration of impartiality and the sworn obligation to keep the secrets of Freemasonry.

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"His declaration has its statutory obligation to avoid any activity likely to interfere with impartiality or to give the impression that it may do so; a Freemason's oath holds inevitably the implication that loyalty to fellow Freemasons may supersede any other loyalty.

"The discerning officer will probably consider it wise to forgo the prospect of pleasure and social advantage in Freemasonry so as to enjoy the unreserved regard of



all those around him."

LAWYERS figure prominently among the office bearers listed in the 1996 Grand Lodge of Scotland yearbook. These include: Walter Sneddon (Grand committee, Grand Lodge); David A Brittain (Law agent to the Grand Lodge); Robert H Allan (Wishaw); James S Grosset (Leven); David MD Whyte (Milngavie).

Among the numerous Masonic JPs are the following who are office-bearers of the Grand Lodge: Iain MacLean (Grand Librarian); Rev Joseph Morrow (Grand Jeweller); Roy Scott (Proxy Senior Warden); Gerald Leven (Substitute Grand Master); Sir Ronald Orr Ewing (Past Grand Master).

Opinions vary as to whether Freemasonry still has any influence within the law, but The Scotsman has found no evidence to suggest it has had any adverse effect within the Scottish legal system.

Glasgow lawyer Martin Smith said he had no personal experience of Freemasonry, but felt it "still opened doors," although it was probably waning in influence.

"There are sheriffs who are Masons," he said. "A number of years ago a sheriff said to me that on occasions an accused person or a witness made comment which he was able to interpret as indicating that they wanted the sheriff to know they were a Mason. But the sheriff assured me he wouldn't allow it to influence his handling of the case."

One of Scotland's most senior judges, Lord McCluskey, said he had no reason to believe any High Court judge was a Mason.

He had never been conscious of Freemasonry having any influence in the running of the Scottish judiciary.

An advocate who was formerly a Mason said he thought three of Scotland's 26 judges were Masons, but that the influence of Freemasonry "had a died a death by the Seventies".

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The Scotsman

July 3, 1996, Wednesday

SECTION: Pg. 1

LENGTH: 93 words

HEADLINE: Police chiefs stay silent on lodge openness Freemasons in Scotland

BYLINE: Stephen Breen Nic Outterside

BODY:

AS A House of Commons select committee begins taking evidence into whether the police and judiciary south of the Border should announce if they are Freemasons, Scotland's chief constables have refused to reveal if they are lodge members.

The chief constables' decision has been criticised by MPs, who believe that public confidence in the police would increase if officers declared their membership of secret societies.

The Scotsman continues its investigation into Freemasonry in Scotland today with a look at the police, the law and business.

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