**From: ASC [mailto:asc@higna.org.uk]**

**Sent: 14 January 2019 15:54**

**To: 'fsmail@na.org'**

**Cc: 'rd.rsc@ukna.org'**

**Subject: Highlands & Islands Area Registration form**

Dear Fellowship Services,

We are pleased to inform you that the Highlands & Islands Area  {www.higna.org.uk) has now been given recognition and has been seated and welcomed as an ASC at the UKNA Region effective from January 12th 2019.

We are therefore forwarding our completed “Area registration form” for inclusion on your data bases.

As an addendum to that we have also attached an updated version of the Highlands and Islands group meetings guidelines which reflect the change we have made to a new platform from SKYPE to Bluejeans for inclusion to the <https://www.na.org/?ID=rural_service> page. If it is felt that the old SKYPE guidelines are still useful and might remain could we perhaps ask that the new/updated version be marked as such.

Many thanks for your service kindest regards and as ever ILF & S

Steve A (HIGNA ASC)

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**From:** Steve Rusch [mailto:stever@na.org]
**Sent:** 15 January 2019 21:20
**To:** asc@higna.org.uk
**Cc:** rd.rsc@ukna.org; Nick Elson
**Subject:** FW: Highlands & Islands Area Registration form

Hello Steve,

Thanks for writing to NA World Services and for your service efforts. In response, we do not register online service committees so no registration form is needed. I believe you may already be aware of the details of that discussion. That said, NAWS is not in a position of authority over local service committees. If the groups in an Area or Region decided to recognize an online meeting or online area as a participant at their table or otherwise register them locally, we would honor that decision as the conscience of those groups.

Thanks also for sending along the updated guidelines. I passed them along to Nick. We will add them to our collection.

Respectfully,

Steve Rusch

NA World Services

From: ASC [mailto:asc@higna.org.uk]

Sent: 16 January 2019 11:40

To: Steve Rusch

Cc: rd.rsc@ukna.org; nick@na.org; wb@na.org

Subject: RE: Highlands & Islands Area Registration form

Hi Steve,

Thanks for your response and acknowledgement of receipt for the HIGNA updated guidelines.

With regard to NAWS position on the registration of Areas we were not aware that the same restrictions as currently applied to online groups or meeting i.e. that NA World services do not consider them to be part of the NA service structure, also applied to other service bodies.

Considering that the Highlands & Islands meetings and now the HIGNA Area have been recognised by the UKNA Region as a legitimate part of the service structure we are requesting, for clarity, that NAWS and the World Board supply us with the full history and rationale behind that position.

Kindest regards in fellowship and service.

Steve A

**From:** Steve Rusch [mailto:stever@na.org]
**Sent:** 16 January 2019 18:33
**To:** ASC
**Cc:** rd.rsc@ukna.org; Nick Elson; Elaine Wickham
**Subject:** RE: Highlands & Islands Area Registration form

Hello again Steve – Thanks for the follow-up. Simply put, NAWS does not have the authority to begin to register online meetings or online service committees without direction from the NA Fellowship. To date, we have received no such direction.

Regards,

Steve Rusch

NAWS Staff

**From:** ASC [mailto:asc@higna.org.uk]
**Sent:** 17 January 2019 09:07
**To:** Steve Rusch
**Cc:** rd.rsc@ukna.org; Nick Elson; Elaine Wickham
**Subject:** RE: Highlands & Islands Area Registration form

Hello Steve,

Thanks for that most interesting response which begs the question of at which point were NAWS given the direction from the fellowship “not to” register online meetings or online service committees and if no such direction has ever been given who’s decision was it and what rationale was used to make it?

Regards

Steve A

**From:** Steve Rusch [mailto:stever@na.org]
**Sent:** 22 January 2019 18:08
**To:** ASC
**Cc:** rd.rsc@ukna.org; Nick Elson; Elaine Wickham
**Subject:** RE: Highlands & Islands Area Registration form

Hi Steve – Restating my earlier response, *NAWS does not have the authority to begin to register online meetings or online service committees without direction from the NA Fellowship. To date, we have received no such direction.* I understand that you may believe that we have such authority, unless specifically told that we do not. You are welcome to that opinion, we do not share it.

Respectfully,

Steve Rusch

NA World Services

**From:** ASC [mailto:asc@higna.org.uk]
**Sent:** 23 January 2019 19:12
**To:** 'Steve Rusch'
**Cc:** 'rd.rsc@ukna.org'
**Subject:** RE: Highlands & Islands Area Registration form

Dear Steve,

Many thanks for your email.

We believe NAWS are looking at this issue from the wrong perspective here by making any distinction at all about the nature or location of groups, meeting and service bodes and how they choose to meet.

Perhaps you would be best served to simply be focusing on the fact that there is, in fact, no distinction at all.

Meeting are meetings as defined by our service material, period, and there is no distinction made in any of that service material as to where or how those meetings should meet, just that they do and do so regularly at a set time and place. As indeed the same applies to those service boards or committees elected to serve those meetings.

You say that you have no authority to make the decision to bring the so called online meetings into the service structure yet supply no evidence as to how and why that position exists and where it came from.

It is to be noted that the decision to include the distinction between online and any other kind of meeting on the NAWS website had to have been made by someone because it has not always been there. In fact there have been instances when it was removed and then put back at a later time.

Which decision clearly had to have been made at some point and have been made jointly or by an individual or individuals at NAWS*. (Attached is a selection of screenshots of your website between early 2009 and late 2010 as evidence of that)* All of which refutes your assertion that NAWS does not exercise some authority and that such decisions have been made without the express direction of the fellowship, unless of course you are able to provide us with evidence of any such fellowship direction to the contrary.

So the question remains whose authority and or direction was it that led to that distinction being made initially, as indeed would apply to the instance of its removal in early 2009 and conversely whose was it to put it back in late 2010?

I have said this before and will say it again now NAWS should not be putting hurdles in the way of this issue but should instead be asking “How can we help?” These meetings who choose to meet in a way that seems to make NAWS uncomfortable are not going to be going away any time soon and can only grow as that time goes on. That they should not be freely given the opportunity to be and feel a part of Narcotics Anonymous fundamentally goes against who and what we are as a fellowship and the unity we speak of in Tradition 1.

You sign you email with the word “respectfully” yet your responses suggest that you seem to have none for those who selflessly serve those meetings with exactly the same motivation as do the servants of any other kind of meeting, those being to carry the message to the still suffering addict, no matter who, what or more importantly where they are.

ILF & S etc etc

Steve A (HIGNA ASC)

We have as yet to receive a further response……