

## HIGNA email Correspondence with NAWS and the UKNA Region Re Area Registration submission January 2019

**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](http://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 12<sup>th</sup> 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](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

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**From:** ASC [mailto:asc@higna.org.uk]  
**Sent:** 16 January 2019 11:40

## HIGNA email Correspondence with NAWS and the UKNA Region Re Area Registration submission January 2019

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

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**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

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**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

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**From:** Steve Rusch [mailto:stever@na.org]  
**Sent:** 22 January 2019 18:08  
**To:** ASC

## **HIGNA email Correspondence with NAWS and the UKNA Region Re Area Registration submission January 2019**

**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

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**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.

## HIGNA email Correspondence with NAWS and the UKNA Region Re Area Registration submission January 2019

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)

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**From:** ASC <[asc@higna.org.uk](mailto:asc@higna.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 23, 2019 12:21 PM  
**To:** Elaine Wickham <[Elaine@na.org](mailto:Elaine@na.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: Highlands & Islands Area Registration form

Hello to our WB from the HIGNA ASC

We felt it pertinent to continue to include you as a body in this conversation.

Regards

Steve A (HIGNA ASC)

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**From:** Steve Rusch [<mailto:stever@na.org>]  
**Sent:** 05 February 2019 21:39  
**To:** ASC  
**Subject:** FW: Highlands & Islands Area Registration form

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Hello again Steve,

Thanks for the follow-up. In discussing the issue here, I was reminded that the World Board has not considered a request to register an online service committee as yet. So my response to your initial request was premature. As you have asked, we will provide a copy of our email exchange to the World Board. Please note that considering their busy agenda, I cannot say when they may take up a discussion about the issue.

Regards,

Steve Rusch  
NAWS Staff

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End of conversation to date and we have yet to receive any correspondence from the WB directly on this issue.

## **HIGNA email Correspondence with NAWS and the UKNA Region Re Area Registration submission January 2019**

In an update to the above:

After just 2 months in March of 2019 the HIGNA ASC was summarily asked to step down as a seated Area of the UKNA Region. While it was initially stated that they did not understand their own Guidelines on seating Areas, it became clear that wider issues were at stake. It is unknown if the UK Region had had any communication with NAWS as to the registered status of HIGNA as an Area. An ad hoc was formed at that March 2019 Region to look into ways of bringing the Virtual meetings and or services into the Region, from which any representative from HIGNA was to be excluded, however that committee had effectively folded by the end of 2019, having produced no actual findings or meaningful report. Over a year later and having received no further communication from the UKNA Region we started the conversation below;

On Wed, 3 Jun 2020 at 12:46, Steve A <[asc@higna.org.uk](mailto:asc@higna.org.uk)> wrote:

Hi Craig....Hope life and the universe are treating you well and that you are staying safe...

One quick initial head's up that the Region Minutes as sent are still marked as "Unapproved", so, for the record, please could that be amended.

Secondly it has come down to us from one of our HIGNA groups about theirs and the other HIGNA groups being listed as part of the new Online Meetings directory on the UKNA webpage.

A request was put in at the beginning of the pandemic that our groups be added to that list under HIGNA, which request was declined and the suggestion that we could submit our meetings under the heading of "Outside the UK" was conversely declined by us.

While we understand that the conversation about HIGNA's status as a seated ASC at the UK region remains unresolved, we believe that under the current circumstances and given the dramatic changes that have taken place, both locally and globally in NA, this now needs to be revisited by the body of Region.

We are aware that the status of many of the new online meetings, in respect to their position of being meetings or groups or their affiliation and participation within the service structure, is at best ambiguous, yet they are still being added to that listing.

If, as was our understanding, that the arguments made to ask HIGNA to step away as a seated ASC in March of 2019 hinged around those kinds of concerns then it seems both illogical and unspiritual to continue to apply those same arguments to exclude HIGNA as a service body from being able to actively participate in Region going forward or at the least be allowed to add our groups to the Online listings under a more appropriate heading.

## HIGNA email Correspondence with NAWS and the UKNA Region Re Area Registration submission January 2019

As such we would therefore welcome the opportunity to be invited to the next "Virtual" meeting of the UK Region in July to petition the body to reopen this conversation and hopefully raise a conscience, either way, that might then enable us as an Area Service Body to move forward rather than be in the limbo we have been in now for well over a year.

Yours in service

Steve A

On Tue, 9 Jun 2020 at 17:06, UKNA Resource <[resource@ukna.org](mailto:resource@ukna.org)> wrote:

Hi Steve,

Thank you for your email. I have forwarded this on to the Admin Committee. We are meeting on Sunday and I have asked that this be added to our agenda for discussion.

Will hopefully be able to update you soon after.

ILS

Craig

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [UKNA Resource](#)

**Sent:** 14 June 2020 20:43

**To:** [Steve A](#)

**Cc:** [UKNA Resource](#)

**Subject:** Re: January 2020 - Approved minutes & The Online meetings list etc -FAO Region Steering Committee

Hi Steve,

We ran out of time at the Admin committee today and are arranging to meet next week to discuss.

Apologies I don't have an update but hopefully I will next week.

ILF

Craig

**From:** [Steve A](#)

**Sent:** 15 June 2020 11:38

**To:** [UKNA Resource](#)

## **HIGNA email Correspondence with NAWs and the UKNA Region Re Area Registration submission January 2019**

Cc: [Steve A](#)

Subject: RE: January 2020 - Approved minutes & The Online meetings list etc-FAO Region Steering Committee

Hi Craig,

Many thanks for your service and for letting us know that this matter is under discussion.

We are not sure if this will be helpful in informing the steering committee's deliberations but do feel that the policy below from 2012 has some bearing.

***"Minutes of the UK Regional Service Committee Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th January 2012. Held in London..."***

*Skype Meets on NA.org are listed as a service, not on meeting list. Maybe put it on the events page? Would like this region to okay that, and being an online meeting to join the website committee even?*

*There are at least four people in the room who have tried moderating on the forums. It's the people on the forum who are at fault not the mods. People/NA members should know better. It's the people on the forum who need changing, not the mods.*

*Why would you want to list a meeting under events when there is a section for online meets? Why would they want to be on the website committee? They are a Group, and have been acknowledged as such.*

*A- just a thought that it would be nice to have them on the committee - to work together that's all. And yes, there is an online meets section.*

*Proposal: That ukna.org lists all online meetings including voice online meetings that are acknowledged by a UK Area/Regional Service Committee on the online meetings section of the website.*

*Intent: to ensure that the message of recovery is carried effectively to the still suffering addict in isolated areas. **PASSED** "*

Yours in service

Steve A

From: [Steve A](#)

Sent: 25 June 2020 18:23

To: [UKNA Resource](#)

Subject: RE: Status of the HIGNA Area at Region and UKNA online meetings lists etc. FAO Region Steering Committee

Hello again Craig,

## **HIGNA email Correspondence with NAWs and the UKNA Region Re Area Registration submission January 2019**

We have our Bi-monthly ASC/Business meeting this coming Monday and had hoped to have something to report on the matters in hand here.

Please can you let us know if a determination on our requests to 1, open the conversation about our status at Region again and 2, our appropriate inclusion on the UKNA Online meetings list have been reached and or if not what, if any, options have been discussed to move those things forward?

Yours in service

Steve A

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Those requests were denied by the Region Steering Committee without ever being presented to the RCM's. The status of HIGNA as an Area of the UKNA Region is still unresolved as we enter year 2 of the pandemic lockdowns.