

RCM report November 2023

ASC: Highlands and Islands Groups

ASC meeting details:

Day and time:

Currently held Bi-Monthly at the end of each even numbered month. The specific time, date and venue of each HIGNA ASC Meeting is determined on a rotating basis at the end of each previous meeting, announced in groups and the details made available on our Groups News Page:

<https://www.higna.org.uk/group-news>

This enables our groups the opportunity to host the ASC.

Venue: See Day and time.

ASC mailing address:

asc@higna.org.uk

Number of groups and meetings: 11 Groups <https://www.higna.org.uk/meetings-list/>

Sub-committee activities: HIGNA currently adopts a policy of creating project specific working groups on an as needed basis rather than creating standing sub committees.

Please list H&I meetings: 0

Events: None currently planned

Additional information: Report Re status of HIGNA Area Meetings Platform

As some may be aware we were notified by Verizon/Bluejeans that they intended to “Sunset” the Bluejeans platform which would cease operating at some point in the early Spring of 2024. Assurances were made that Enterprise level accounts like ours would be given advanced warning prior to those accounts being turned off. This, as we all know, was not the case and the joint HIGNA/NA@Home account was summarily switched off without warning at the beginning of October. An alternative was quickly found and thanks to the generosity of another group using Bluejeans the meetings links were changed to enable both Area’s meetings to continue and the nessacery steps were taken to update other systems where our meetings are listed such as UKNA.

The Tech Team believing initially that we had several months to look at and find a suitable alternative to Bluejeans had already begun the process of looking at the option available to us. It has been made clear, for a wide variety of reasons and on a number of occasions, that the conscience of both HIGNA and NA@Home was not to use Zoom unless and only as a last resort.

Commensurate with that conscience it was decided that we focus on one possible alternative known as “Visonable”, which was already being used in collaboration with UKNA H&I and HMP to bring Virtual meetings into prisons and facilities across the UK.

To that end a number of positive conversations have now taken place between us and Visonable and a test room created and looked at. The next step is for us to have a further, in person, meeting with Visonable at their headquarters in Kent (UK) which will give us the opportunity to work directly with their management and tech teams and to hopefully start on developing a suitable platform specifically tailored for user by regularly scheduled Virtual Meetings.

Taken that this process may not meet our needs as quickly as we might like, or at least within our time frame, the proposal is, if needed, that we temporarily swich our meeting to Zoom when the account of our kind and current hosts is due to expire at the end of December.

So far, given our interactions with Visonable and their existing relationship with NA, our work with them has given us the confidence to believe that, long term, this project is worth our time and effort to develop. There are still

lots of unknowns with how this might work, if at all, but hope to have more information after the proposed meeting above which will take place towards the end of November.

Thank you for allowing us to be of service, the HIGNA Tech Team

Current financial status and contributions:

Closing Balance: £1,364.64 (as of 30/10/2023)

Prudent Reserve: £500.00 (as of 30/10/2023)

Tradition 7 surplus: £864.65 (as of 30/10/2023)

No Donation to Region this month

ASC summary for presentation at Region: N/A

Responses to action points from RSC: N/A

Questions for Region: Due to the fluctuating situation with the HIGNA meetings list as highlighted above and the likely need for multiple edits to be made on the Region meetings list over the next few months we asked that our meetings be linked to our websites meetings list page which is updated in real time by our TS's as and when required <https://www.higna.org.uk/meetings-list/> By doing this we hoped to alleviate some of the workload from the UKNA meetings list coordinator. We were informed that the Coordinator was unable to do this in line with Website Committee policy not to link to external websites yet our listing on the UKNA ASC information page does link to our Area websites Group News page to provide venue, date and time info on where and when our ASC's take place: <https://service.ukna.org/committee/area-higna-highland-and-islands> We are therefore asking for clarity around this?

Yours in fellowship; HIGNA