

CRITERIA FOR FREEDOM

Individuals are eligible for Freedom of the Cutlers Company if they meet each of the following criteria:

a. They are a director or senior executive of a relevant organisation. (This is currently considered, in the case of a research establishment, to mean somebody at least of the seniority of a department head or professor and who is a business-minded individual of quality, with responsibility for, and qualifications in, metallurgy, materials science, engineering or other discipline appropriate to the manufacturing sector.)

b. They work for an organisation or a research establishment which is engaged in the production of, or fee-earning research in support of, manufactured items. (This is currently considered to encompass producers of, and researchers into the production of, any finished “engineered” product or component. This will currently normally mean “hard” products or components like tools, steel, cutlery, bricks, cement, machines, etc but not “soft” products like business software, packaging, stationery, office consumables, etc.. The guideline would currently exclude service support such as vehicle repairers and product distributors but include service providers with high manufacturing content like plant builders/repairers and service centres which have a high value-added content.)

c. They work for an organisation with a relevant location within our defined geographical area. (This is currently considered to broadly be interpreted as covering the Sheffield City Region – presently defined as the whole of South Yorkshire, parts of North East Derbyshire, including Chesterfield, Bolsover, the Dales and Bassetlaw in North Nottinghamshire.) The precise definition is very difficult but these guidelines are intended to convey the present intent in a way that should make it much easier for the Freedoms Advisor to bring suitable applications to the Company for approval.

PROCESS

Once a potential Freeman is identified, his name, address and a brief background should be sent to the Clerk by the sponsor. The Clerk will then send a letter inviting the individual to apply.

Applications forms duly filled out and with an attached brief biography will then be returned to the Clerk who will pass them to the Freedoms Advisor who will check that the applicant is qualified (see above).

If the Freedoms Advisor indicates that the individual is qualified, his or her name and the bio will be passed to all Members of the Company and Freedom will be granted. This decision will then be ratified at the next Company Meeting.

Freemen will be invited to an induction Ceremony with the Master Cutler.