



PROVINCE OF EAST LANCASHIRE



Provincial Circular No.204

20 August 2020

To: Lodge Secretaries & Chapter Scribes E
Cc: Cabinet [Craft & Royal Arch], Grand & District Officers

Dear Brother Secretary / Companion Scribe E,

I am writing to advise you that, following consultation with his Deputies and cognisant of the foreseeable continuance of restrictions caused by the pandemic, the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master / Most Excellent Grand Superintendent has decided the following:

1. Installation Representatives will not be appointed for Lodge and Chapter Installations until further notice. Any which have been appointed will not be required to attend.
2. All official visits by Chain Bearers / Cabinet Members as part of a Deputation, Delegation and / or Celebration, will not take place until further notice. The same will apply to all those who would have formed part of that team.
3. If your Lodge or Chapter was to celebrate a personal or Provincial event, it will therefore be affected by this decision. If the Lodge / Chapter is still able to meet on the night in question, there is nothing to prevent the occasion being marked, privately, by the members in some way as appropriate and subject to prevailing guidance. This will not prevent the re-arrangement of the event / celebration for some point in the future, if so desired by the members and by mutual agreement with the parties concerned. However, you will appreciate that it is impossible to do so presently, as there are too many unknown factors in play. Secretaries and Scribes need take no action at the moment as you will be contacted by the Provincial Secretariat / District Secretary in due course. Please do not contact whoever was to be the Principal Officer. This will be managed by the Secretariat.
4. These decisions will be reviewed on a regular basis but at this time, it is anticipated that, based on the current conditions, this may remain in force until the end of this year. It will, however, be reviewed based on Government guidance and that of UGLE and you will be kept apprised.

None of the above affects anybody, irrespective of their position or office from attending any meeting **in a private capacity only** and then, only if they feel able and safe to do so and, again, in conformity with the prevailing guidance.

Continued...

Provincial Secretariat, Rossendale Masonic Hall, Ashday Lea, Haslingden Road,
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In addition:

1. The Provincial Meetings

- a. A decision concerning the arrangements for the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, in November, will be made soon. It appears highly unlikely that the Annual Meeting for the Craft and the rescheduled Royal Arch Annual Meeting will be held at King George's Hall, Blackburn, as it will not be open at that time.
- b. We anticipate that a small Meeting will be conducted at another site to administer the essential business of the Province to ensure regularity and constitutional conformity.
- c. Only the bare minimum of attendees will be permitted due to government restrictions. Unless you are specifically requested to be at any rearranged Meeting, please do not attend.
- d. Further information will be issued in the coming weeks and all those who are due to receive Appointment or Promotion will, in any case, be contacted separately.

2. The Provincial Office.

- a. The Secretariat will reopen their offices from Monday 14th September. No visitors will be able to attend the office. All documents, where possible, should be posted. In the event of items which can only be delivered, an appointment must be made to do so beforehand, at which time instructions will be given on what you must do.
- b. From that date, the office will only be open 8am-4pm, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, for the time being. Work is being processed and dealt with remotely at all other times. We ask that, in the first instance, you email **any and all enquiries** to: secretariat@eastlancsmasons.org.uk rather than telephoning. This will ensure that queries are managed in a timely manner.
- c. All the information you should need has already been issued and is on the provincial website. Please keep referring to that page for any updates (see link at the foot of this email).
- d. There have been a number of instances where UGLE have been contacted direct by members seeking clarification of issues they have. Please do not do this. All enquiries should be directed to the Provincial Secretariat as has always been the case.

Keep well, keep safe and keep in touch,



Martin P Roche
Provincial Grand Secretary



Andrew Holland
Provincial Grand Scribe E