



PROVINCE OF EAST LANCASHIRE



Provincial Circular No.206

7 September 2020

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

Dear Brother Secretary & Companion Scribe E,

Local Area Suspension of Masonic Meetings

You will be aware that much of the area covered by the Province of East Lancashire is in lockdown due to the ongoing effects of the coronavirus. The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master / Most Excellent Grand Superintendent is aware that it has been suggested that, for the time being, all Masonic Meetings in East Lancashire should be suspended. However, and for the sake of clarity:

- There is no provision in the Book of Constitutions that enables the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master to order a general suspension of all Meetings.
- Where there is a local lockdown he does have a duty to prevent his Brethren from disregarding it by exercising his implied powers to impose a suspension of Meetings in those areas.
- In those circumstances Meetings would not be lawful and **must not** take place.
- Therefore, in the event of a local lockdown being implemented by Government, in areas within the Province, both Craft and Royal Arch Meetings will be suspended, in those areas, for the duration of its imposition.
- During that period, it will not be necessary to issue Summons and a note explaining the circumstances should be entered in the Minute book.
- It should also be noted that if you live in one of the areas currently under local restrictions, you **must not** attend Meetings in another area where the restrictions have been lifted.

I trust this will clarify matters for you, as a Secretary or Scribe E.

Keep well, keep safe and keep in touch,

Martin P Roche
Provincial Grand Secretary

Andrew Holland
Provincial Grand Scribe E

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