



PROVINCE OF EAST LANCASHIRE



Circular No. 201

13 July 2020

To: Lodge Secretaries
Cc: Lodge DCs
Craft Cabinet

Dear Brother Secretary,

End of the Suspension of Masonic Activities

You will be aware that UGLE is lifting the suspension of Masonic activities, with effect from 17 July 2020. Direction was issued on 6 July 2020, regarding social distancing and the guidance it is incumbent on us all follow, and which is reiterated herein. Guidance regarding amendments to our Ceremonies can be found by following the links at the foot of this email.

This email is being distributed to all Lodge Secretaries, with a copy being sent to Lodge DCs.

Amendments to Craft Ritual

The principal problem with our Ritual is the “social distance” involved. Halving the distance to one metre should make it many times easier not only to maintain the dignity of the ceremonies but also to accommodate a sensible number of Brethren for a meeting.

Discreet prompting is an issue, but should not be allowed to lead to any encouragement to Masters to read ceremonies rather than deliver them from memory. **Ceremonies with multiple candidates should almost certainly be avoided.**

The precise location of Officers will have to be dictated by the size and shape of the room. All must maintain the required social distance, including the IPM and the Chaplain (who may therefore have to move to the south of their normal positions). It is suggested that the JD sit diagonally opposite the SD, at the west end of the front row in the south, and the IG at the west end of the front row in the north, diagonally opposite the DC.

Compliance with all relevant government requirements is essential, and any deliberate disregard of such requirements should be regarded as activity, which may bring Freemasonry into disrepute and therefore result in disciplinary action.

As a general principle, **only one person should handle any individual item of regalia or furniture during the course of a meeting.** Singing should also be avoided.

To reduce such problems, it is considered acceptable for Brethren to wear only their personal regalia; **it is not considered necessary for officers' collars to be worn**

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Third Degree Ceremony:

A Third Degree should not be carried out under present conditions.

Information regarding the amended Ceremonies can be obtained by following the relevant links below this message.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

Martin P Roche, JP

Provincial Grand Secretary

The links to Ceremonies will not be placed on the Provincial website, but are available from the Lodge Secretary