



UNITED GRAND LODGE
OF ENGLAND



SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER
OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS
OF ENGLAND

8 January 2021

Dear Metropolitan or Provincial Grand Master, or Grand Superintendent,

COVID-19

I wrote on 15 October 2020 as parts of England were moving from Medium Risk (Tier 1) to High Risk (Tier 2) or Very High Risk (Tier 3), to set out the implications for meetings in Craft and Royal Arch. Since then the number of tiers has increased, and events generally have moved on.

At that time I advised that while a Metropolitan or Provincial Grand Master, or a Grand Superintendent has no express or implied power to impose a general suspension throughout his Metropolitan Area or Province, he does have a **duty** to do so in particular areas in order to prevent breaches of the law, and a limited **power** to do so to ensure the safety of the Craft, its members and the general public.

Now that a third lockdown has been imposed in England, I look to you to impose the local suspension of all Masonic meetings which has now become necessary, until such time as the current Government restrictions remain in force.

When in due course, however, the Government restrictions are once more eased, a targeted approach should be adopted, according to the level of risk in a particular area (which may mean that different parts of your Province will be subject to different provisions at any given moment). In every case it will be essential that applicable regulations and guidance are adhered to, but at this stage it is not possible to predict with certainty what those regulations and that guidance will be.

The consequence of suspension is that the guidance given for the four-month suspension between 17 March and 17 July 2020 must once more be followed. In particular, there will be no need to issue a summons for a meeting that falls within the period of the suspension.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

VW Bro/E Comp David Staples
Grand Secretary/Grand Scribe E

Freemasons' Hall, 60 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7831 9811 **Email:** info@ugle.org.uk

www.ugle.org.uk @UGLE_GrandLodge UnitedGrandLodgeofEngland