



## PROVINCE OF EAST KENT

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Neil Hamilton Johnstone.

Provincial Grand Master

Brethren and Companions,

### Covid 19 - Suspension of Meetings

The suspension of Lodge meetings and Royal Arch convocations directed by the MW The Grand Master on 5th November expired on 1st December. Today, the 2nd December, an amended government Tier system came into effect placing the County of Kent, and therefore the Province of East Kent, into Tier 3, subject to all the limitations that it brings.

Tier 3 imposes restrictions on people from separate households meeting indoors such that Lodge and Chapter meetings cannot take place. It is therefore now incumbent upon me as Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent to suspend all Lodge and Chapter meetings within the Province of East Kent in order to comply with the requirements of the law.

I must also remind you that Freemasons who live in Tier 3 areas are not permitted to attend Lodge or Chapter meetings in Tier 1 or Tier 2 areas.

The consequence of this further suspension is that the guidance given for the four month suspension between 17th March and 17th July 2020, and for the recent 'lockdown', must once more be followed. In particular there will be no need to issue a summons for meetings during the period of suspension.

I am fully aware that this will add to the difficulties in planning ahead, but I can assure you that this suspension will be kept under review and will be lifted as soon as government restrictions are eased sufficiently for me to do so.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Neil H Johnstone  
Provincial Grand Master  
Grand Superintendent