



Provincial Grand Lodge  
of Berkshire

RW Bro A C Howlett-Bolton, OBE  
Provincial Grand Master

To: All Craft and Royal Arch Masons

2 December 2020

Dear Brother/ Companion,

**Continued Suspension of Masonic Meetings**

Today, HM Government has lifted the national restrictions and the country has returned to a revised version of the Tier System. Currently, the whole of the Province of Berkshire is in Tier 2 (High Risk).

While a Metropolitan, Provincial Grand Master or 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.

There is no debate to be had about the implications of Tier 3 (Very High Risk) restrictions. Lodge & Chapter meetings cannot take place in such areas and accordingly a suspension must be imposed. However, legal opinion is divided about Tier 2. Until such time as the point has been resolved, UGLE has recommended that Lodges and Chapters do not meet, and that this may be reinforced, at our discretion, by a suspension.

Mindful of all of the implications and to provide clarity, we have determined to exercise our discretion by ordering that all Craft and Royal Arch masonic meetings in the Province of Berkshire remain suspended in Tier 3 & 2 areas until further notice. Naturally, we will keep the situation under constant review.

The consequence of this 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 & fraternally,

Provincial Grand Master



Provincial Grand Chapter  
of Berkshire

E Comp I R G Hopgood,  
Grand Superintendent,

Grand Superintendent