

PROVINCE OF EAST LANCASHIRE

DRESS CODE & PROTOCOLS

The following guidance sets out the dress code for meetings and events.

PGM/DPGM/ APMG

a	When visiting any Lodge Installation	<i>Full Dress / Chain / Tailcoat</i>
b	Consecration of a new Lodge	<i>Full Dress / Chain / Tailcoat</i>
c	Centenary / Bi-Centenary / Lodge 150th	<i>Full Dress / Chain / Tailcoat</i>
d	Bible / Banner Dedication	<i>Full Dress / Chain / Tailcoat</i>
e	Personal 50 th / 60 th	<i>Full Dress / Chain / Tailcoat</i>
f	3747 Lodge Installation	<i>Full Dress / Chain / Tailcoat</i>
g	8408 Lodge Installation	<i>Full Dress / Chain / Tailcoat</i>
h	Lodge Closure	<i>Full Dress / Chain / Tailcoat</i>
i	When attending own private Lodge	<i>Undress regalia / Collar / short jacket</i>
j	3747 Lodge, half year meeting	<i>Undress regalia / Chain / short jacket</i>
k	8408 Lodge, half year meeting	<i>Undress regalia / Chain / short jacket</i>
l	Visiting other Provincial Meetings	<i>Full Dress / Chain / Tailcoat / UGLE tie</i> <i>[not East Lancs Festival tie or Jewel]</i>

APGM

Private Lodge / pastoral visit in his Area	<i>Undress regalia / Chain / short jacket</i>
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MEGS / DepGSupt / 2nd & 3rd Provincial Grand Principals

a	When visiting any Chapter Installation	<i>Chain / tailcoat</i>
b	Personal 50 th / 60 th	<i>Chain / tailcoat</i>
c	3747 Chapter Installation	<i>Chain / tailcoat</i>
d	8408 Chapter Installation	<i>Chain / tailcoat</i>
e	Chapter Closure	<i>Chain / tailcoat</i>
f	Consecration of New Chapter	<i>Chain / tailcoat</i>
g	Bible / Banner / Robes Dedication	<i>Chain / tailcoat</i>
h	Joint Convocations	<i>Chain / tailcoat</i>
i	Passing on the Veils	<i>Chain / tailcoat</i>
j	Centenary / Bi-Centenary / Chapter 150th	<i>Chain / tailcoat</i>
k	When attending own private Chapter	<i>Collar/ short jacket</i>
l	3747 Chapter, half year meeting	<i>Chain / short jacket</i>
m	8408 Chapter, half year meeting	<i>Chain / short jacket</i>
n	Visiting other Provincial meetings	<i>Chain / tailcoat / SGC tie</i> <i>[not East Lancs Festival tie or Jewel]</i>

In addition, the Principals Robes are worn on those occasions at which the MEGS, DepGSupt and ProvGP's take the Principal Chairs,

APGP's

As above with the exception of the Chain. A Provincial collar or Grand collar will be worn.

Grand Officers:

At all official Provincial events / celebrations, full dress regalia will be worn. In addition, Grand Officers, will be expected to wear tails when:

- Acting as the Personal Representative of the PGM / MEGS at an Installation, **or**
- If invited to form part of any procession for a meeting at which the Principal Officer is the PGM / DepPGM / APGM and in the case of the Royal Arch, the MEGS / DepGSupt / 2nd or 3rd PGP, APGP **or**
- If invited to form part of a Grand Lodge / Supreme Grand Chapter Deputation when a Ruler is in attendance.

As a matter of principle, it is pertinent to remind Grand Officers of the approach of the Province to certain accepted protocols.

- In the case of a **Provincial** event / celebration, the Secretariat will take the lead on the organisation and work with / advise the Lodge / Chapter as appropriate.
- Part of this will include being advised by the Lodge / Chapter regarding any Grand Officers whom they are aware are attending as guests and particularly, any past Chain Bearers.
- With significant or popular events, it is likely that the number of Grand Officers attending may exceed the number which might comfortably and practicably be accommodated within a procession.
- The final decision convening who and how many are included is vested in the PGM / MEGS for events at which he is officiating. He will be advised by the Provincial Secretary / Scribe E who will in turn liaise with the Provincial DC when drawing up the processions and then, as a consequence, the seating within the Lodge / Chapter and at the subsequent dining.
- In the case of District celebrations e.g. personal Golden Jubilees, the District Secretary / RADO will lead on the organisation / administration.

In simple terms, if a Grand Officer is to form part of a Deputation, he will be expected to wear tails. If not in the Deputation, he will wear a short jacket and sit in the Lodge / Chapter from the beginning.

It cannot be emphasised too strongly that all such arrangements should when practicable be made in advance of the event rather than on the night. Certain difficulties continue to arise where local arrangements or “custom and practice” have been allowed to evolve and with them, expectations which cannot sometimes be met. It should be appreciated that such approaches have (and continue) to cause difficulties, particularly for the ProvGDC and his team.

Experience provides that last minute changes due to illness or unavoidable absence will occur. The ProvGDC (in liaison with the Principal guest) has responsibility on the night for managing such eventualities.

Not being included in a procession is not a slight or in any way intended to be disrespectful of one’s past position or current rank. In all cases, it will be a clear matter of logistics and practicalities.

However, in order that he will be properly dressed if invited to join a procession a Grand Officer, when attending such events, should have his tailcoat available, even though this does not guarantee his inclusion in the procession.