

# PROVINCE OF EAST LANCASHIRE



## PROVINCIAL ROYAL ARCH HONOURS GUIDANCE MARCH 2026

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# Provincial Grand Chapter of East Lancashire

## Section A: Introduction / Principles

These guidelines are not prescriptive but can be extended in appropriate, well recorded and documented cases.

All Appointments and Promotions to Provincial Ranks are made by the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent and are his exclusive prerogative, subject only to the limitations of the Book of Royal Arch Regulations.

The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent has delegated responsibility to his Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principals to make recommendations of those Companions to be Appointed or Promoted to Acting or Past Ranks.

The recommendation of the resultant Honours List is delegated to a Committee consisting of the Deputy Grand Superintendent, as Chairman, the Second and Third Provincial Grand Principals, the Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principals and the Provincial Grand Scribe E.

The number of Appointments and Promotions made each year by a Most Excellent Grand Superintendent is based upon a factor of the number of Companions in the Province, as advised by the Supreme Grand Chapter of England.

Allocations made to the Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principals for their respective Areas are based on a factor of the number of Companions in their Area as a proportion of the Provincial total.

The Honours are grouped into four categories,

- Acting Rank
- First Appointment to a Past Provincial Rank
- Promotion to a Past Provincial Rank
- Mid-year Promotion

Each Assistant should nominate Companions for Acting Rank according to his allocation as identified in the Provincial schedule. Additional requests may be made but will not necessarily be accepted. This will be at the discretion of the Honours Panel, subject to numbers and the approval of the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent.

The Rank of Provincial Grand Steward is considered special and is for a Companion who has demonstrated particular promise and is, ideally, under 60 years of age.

With the lowering of the number of Supreme Grand Chapter Collars being awarded, the Rank of Past Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah is now seen as a very senior award. These will be allocated, on a normal basis, of only one per Assistant per year.

Each year the Provincial Grand Scribe E will publish an Honours Timetable, Honours Guidance and Application Form (Appendix A) which will be made available on the Provincial Secretariat website in accordance with the published timetable. After

completion of the form by the Companion (with the assistance of his Chapter Scribe E if necessary), the application form must be checked as to accuracy and completeness and countersigned by the Scribe E. **This is not to approve the application, but merely to record that the Chapter is aware of its submission and that the information is broadly correct.** The assistance of the Royal Arch Area Officer and the Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals is available when needed.

In addition:

- A Chapter does not have the right to Petition for an Appointment to, or Promotion in Provincial Grand Chapter, but can, if it so wishes, support an application made by a Companion. Neither does a Chapter have the authority to vet applications that are to be submitted by an individual Companion. There is no limit to the number of Companions that can make application from the same Chapter each year, or the number of Appointments or Promotions that a single Chapter can receive in one year.
- Special consideration may be given to Companions in Past Principals Chapters, with the exception of those listed in Section F, who are no longer subscribing members of any other Chapter, but who have continued to make a significant contribution. Such Companions will be eligible to apply for either an Appointment or Promotion.
- Companions from newly Consecrated Chapters, who are not Companions of another East Lancashire Chapter, will not be eligible to submit applications until the fourth year after the Consecration of the Chapter.
- First Appointments are usually made within Band One *[See Section I]*. Subsequent Promotions will either be within a Band or to the next Band, whichever is appropriate.
- Companions who have not been through the First Principal's Chair within a Chapter in East Lancashire and are 'Joining Members' do not qualify to have any rank from another Province automatically 'matched'. Furthermore, their service within another Province is not considered as qualifying them for preferment in this Province. **Service to another Province should be recognised by and within that Province.** Any service given to their East Lancashire Chapter(s) will be considered on its own merit, including the time they have been a member of this Province.
- Honours offer letters will be distributed in accordance with the published timetable, usually in early January, in advance of the Provincial Grand Chapter Meeting the following March.

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## **Section B: Appointments**

Every Companion who has been Installed as the First Principal of an East Lancashire Chapter and six years have elapsed since he was Installed, **qualifies for consideration**. A degree of flexibility will be applied to ensure a Companion is not disadvantaged by the date of the Chapter Installation.

Unless there is a good reason, all Companions who have not received a Provincial Appointment after the qualifying period should be reviewed by their AProvGP. This **does not** mean that the Companion will receive an Appointment after the qualifying period; it only means that he **qualifies for consideration** based on length of service.

An exception to these guidelines is the Rank of Provincial Grand Steward. This is a very special Appointment and is to encourage particularly active and often younger Companions. The Appointment can be awarded at any time after the Companion becomes a Past First Principal of his Chapter.

The Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals, together with his Royal Arch Area Officers, will review the applications received from Companions using set criteria including:

- A Companion's service in the Chapter
- Offices held within the Chapter
- Any ritual which has been undertaken by him
- His attendance record
- Whether he has made any contribution to:
  - his Masonic Hall
  - his Area
  - the Province
  - his local community

Each Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals is allocated a number of Acting and Past Provincial Appointments. He allocates these, using the above criterion, against qualified Companions. Acting Rank is awarded to Companions who have shown particular merit.

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## **Section C: Discretionary Appointments**

An Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals may recommend Discretionary Appointments. There is no qualifying time before such an appointment may be recommended. However, the five-year rule should generally be observed, except for Acting Ranks, or for special cases for the consideration of the Honours Panel in the following circumstances:

- For the good of the Province
- For the good of the Area
- To acknowledge a Companion who is deemed to have special qualities
- For Acting Ranks
- For designated Area Offices

Discretionary Collars can only be applied for on the recommendation of the AProvGP.

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## Section D: Promotions

The criterion and application form [Appendix A] used for a Promotion is the same as that used for an Appointment and is published on the Secretariat website each year.

Recommendations for Promotion to Past Ranks are initially prepared by each Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals in liaison with his Royal Arch Area Officers. Each year they will review all the applications received and the Provincial Officers in their Areas. In simple terms, **seven years** must have elapsed since the Companion received his first appointment / last promotion.

The date regime will be observed.

To assist, a list of Companions can be made available, from the Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals, detailing when Members were last Honoured.

This qualifying period does not apply to Companions who were first appointed as;

- Provincial Grand Steward
- Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
- To a discretionary Rank / Office

Normally, a Companion holding one of the above Offices, providing that he has continued to make progress, will be Promoted, usually to the rank of PProvAGSoj [1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>] 3 years after the date of the original appointment to that Office.

The rank of ProvGStwd is prestigious. If a Companion, for whatever reason, does not continue to make progress **he should be promoted to a rank not higher than PProvAGDC**; a Companion should not remain PProvGStwd for more than two years.

Promotions should normally be from “band to band”, [See Section I] even if this means that the jump from one band to another is by a single step. However, if the promotion is pertinent to a step within a band [eg PProvAGDC to PProv1stAGSoj] then that one step promotion should be given.

It is important that a Companion is given the rank appropriate to his own particular circumstances, in accordance with the guidelines.

It is possible, of course, for a Companion to receive more than one Promotion during his involvement as a Royal Arch Mason. It is also possible for a Companion to receive no Promotion at all or any further Promotion if he has given little or no additional contribution since his first Appointment or last Promotion in Provincial Grand Chapter.

If the criterion for the level at which the first [or subsequent] Promotion is achieved, then that position can be recommended, **otherwise a Promotion should not be proposed**.

This means that if a Companion is already placed at an appropriate level relevant to him, a Promotion will not be given purely because of the time held within his current office. Time served is only one criterion.

The second Promotion range will normally be awarded to those Companions performing at Area level or for Companions having demonstrable and substantial involvement in his

Masonic Hall and / or in community activities acceptable to the Honours Panel, or for those Companions that have given exceptional service to his Chapter.

The full rank will normally be for senior officials of an Area / Province / ELMC or, for those Companions who have other demonstrable and substantial qualities acceptable to the Panel and / or who have given exceptional service.

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**Section E: Designated Ranks (Area Appointments / Promotions)**

A designated rank awarded to an Area Officer will normally be a Promotion. However, an Appointment to an Area Office should usually qualify a Companion, if he is not already a Provincial Officer, for a first Appointment up to and including Acting or Past Provincial Grand Sojourner.

Two years later, or after a further period determined by the Honours Panel and following consideration given to the progress made by the occupant of the Office, he should normally be Promoted to the substantive rank designated to that particular Office, eg:

**Area Chairman**

On first Appointment	Past Provincial Grand Sojourner
After two years, on recommendation	Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer

**Area Deputy Chairman**

On first Appointment	Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer
After two years, on recommendation	Past Provincial Deputy Grand DC

**Royal Arch Area Officer [1]**

On first Appointment	Past Prov First Assistant Grand Sojourner
After two years, on recommendation	Past Provincial Deputy Grand DC
After five years, on recommendation	Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer*

**Royal Arch Area Officer [2]**

On first Appointment	Provincial Grand Steward
After two years, on recommendation	Past Provincial Deputy Grand DC
After five years, on recommendation	Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer*

Other Area Officer Appointments will be considered, by recommendation, through the usual process.

*\*If the Companion is appointed to another office within this five year period and is recommended / supported by the Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principal, the rank of Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer can still be awarded on the completion of the five year period.*

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## **Section F: Chapters which do not normally receive Provincial Honours**

East Lancashire Provincial Grand Officers Chapter	No.3747
East Lancashire Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter	No.8408
Aldwyn Chapter	No.5712

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## **Section G: Data Sheets**

Data sheets **must** be used, on all occasions, to inform the process; they provide important background information.

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## **Section H: Rosette Collar**

A special case can be made to the Honours Panel for a Companion who has not been through the First Principals Chair, but who has given exceptional service to his Chapter of, for example, at least 15 years in an important Chapter office, e.g. Scribe E, DC, Treasurer etc. In such circumstances the award will be at the level of PProvAGDC.

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## **Section I: Banding**

### **Band One – Appointments / Promotions**

- Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
- Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer
- Past Provincial 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Grand Sojourner
- Past Provincial 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Grand Sojourner

### **Band Two – Promotions**

- Past Provincial Grand Sojourner
- Past Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies

### **Band Three – Promotions**

- Past Provincial Sword Bearer
- Past Provincial Grand Registrar
- Past Provincial Grand Scribe N

The consistent allocation of Honours awarded will ensure that the Honours process is seen to be objective. This means that an initial placement should be made in conformity with the guidelines given previously for Area Officers or for Companions generally within the various agreed bands, e.g.

- a Companion who has:
  - a good [80%+] attendance record
  - been through the three Principals Chairs in a conscientious and dignified manner
  - conducted an appropriate number of Ceremonies

will be placed as a PProvGStB. **This is the “norm position” Honour.**

- If a Companion exceeds the above criterion, a higher honour can be awarded.
- If he is of a very high standard, or an Area / Provincial Officer progressing to a Designated Office then **PProv1stAGSoj** can be recommended, rising in due time to the substantive rank.

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#### **Section J: Moderation**

Once the Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principals have completed their recommended lists, they are sent to the Provincial Grand Scribe E where the lists are collated, checked for accuracy, moderated and then considered by the Deputy Grand Superintendent prior to being presented to the Honours Panel, which meets to confirm each recommendation for Appointment or Promotion. Care is taken by the Honours Panel in examining the case for each Companion as it is important that we achieve fairness and reasonableness for each decision. Importance is given to the **full** completion of the Application Form, **which includes Section C.**

Each of the Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principals is present at the Honours Panel meeting. This means that at least one member of the Panel knows the background to the Companion under discussion. The final agreed list is presented to the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent who, before giving approval, reviews the list.

The rank awarded is based on the quality of the contribution each Companion has made to his Chapter, Hall, Area, Province, Community or to Royal Arch Masonry generally and in anticipation of his ability to contribute further in the future.

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#### **Section K: Fees / Dues**

In order to qualify for an Appointment or Promotion a Companion must:

- be clear of any encumbrance of dues to **any** Chapter, or Lodge
- pay a fee for a:
  - First Appointment
  - First Promotion
  - Second Promotion

N.B. - Fees are not due for:

- Any Appointment to an office below the level of a Companions current rank
- Any subsequent Honour after the second promotion.

**Provincial Grand Scribe E**  
June 2025

**Provincial Grand Chapter of East Lancashire**  
**Honours Application Form 2026**  
*Appointment to, or Promotion within, Provincial Grand Chapter (March 2026)*

Surname ..... Forename(s) .....

Chapter Name & No ..... SGC No (if known) .....

Address .....

..... Date of Birth .....

Email: .....

Profession (even if retired) .....

Year Exalted ..... Date Installed as 1<sup>st</sup> Principal .....

Provincial Rank (if any) in other Provinces: Craft ..... RA .....

Province .....

Please complete the following statements:		
SECTION A	TITLE	DURING THE YEAR(S)
I served the Chapter as:	Z	.....
	H	.....
	J	.....
	Scribe E	.....
	Scribe N	.....
	Treasurer	.....
	DC	.....
	Almoner	.....
	Charity Representative	.....
	Asst Scribe E	.....
	Asst DC	.....
	Festival Representative	.....
	Area Representative	.....
	RA Representative in Lodge	.....
I have worked/demonstrated the Ceremony of Exaltation .....		
I have worked the Installation Ceremony on.....		
I have served as First Principal for a subsequent year during.....		
<b>SECTION B</b>		
Out of a total of ..... Meetings, I have attended .....% of the Meetings.		
No. of occasions I have given an Address: ..... Robes Explanation: .....		
No. of occasions I have given a Lecture: .....		

### **QUALIFYING TIME LIMITS**

- **First Appointment:** **Six years** must have elapsed by the date of the annual investiture meeting since the Companion was first **Installed** as First Principal.
- **Promotion:** **Seven years** must have elapsed since the Companion received his first appointment / last promotion.

**SECTION C – The completion of this section is important particularly when the application is being considered for promotion.** Mention any special activities including Public Service [other than those in Section A] that should be brought to the notice of the ME Grand Superintendent.

### **SECTION D**

The particulars given on both sides of this form are correct. I will play my part in ensuring that the Chapter is represented at all meetings of Provincial Grand Chapter.

I confirm that I have not been excluded from, or ceased membership via BOC Regulations 71(RA), 181, 148 (Craft) of **any** Chapter or Lodge.

Before completing this Form, please check that you are eligible and that there is ample supportive evidence (especially in **Section C**).

A copy of the 2026 Honours' Guidelines can be obtained from your Chapter Scribe E, or from the Provincial website.

SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE .....

SIGNATURE OF SCRIBE E ..... DATE .....

**Please ensure that all sections are completed and return one copy to your Royal Arch Area Officer *[not the Provincial Office]* BEFORE 10 October 2025.**