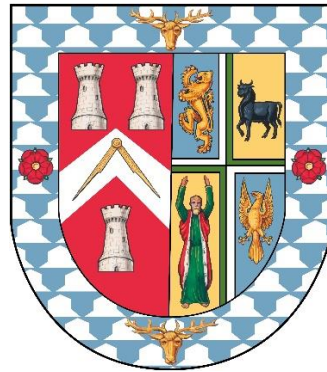


PROVINCE OF EAST LANCASHIRE



PROVINCIAL CRAFT HONOURS GUIDANCE **2026**

Section A

Introduction / Principles Page 3

Section B

Appointments Page 4

Section C

Discretionary Appointments Page 5

Section D

Promotions Page 6

Section E

Designated Ranks..... Page 7

Section F

Lodges which do not normally receive Provincial Honours Page 8

Section G

Data Sheets..... Page 8

Section H

Rosette Collar..... Page 8

Section I

Banding..... Page 8

Section J

Moderation..... Page 9

Section K

Royal Arch..... Page 9

Section L

Fees / Dues Page 10

Appendix A

Application Form.....Pages 11 / 12

Provincial Grand Lodge 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 RW Provincial Grand Master and are his exclusive prerogative subject only to the limitations of the Book of Constitutions.

The RWProvGM has delegated responsibility to his Assistant Provincial Grand Masters to make recommendations of those Brethren in their Areas to be appointed or promoted to Acting or Past Ranks in Provincial Grand Lodge.

The recommendation of the resultant Honours List is delegated to a Committee consisting of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master as Chairman, the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters and the Provincial Grand Secretary.

The number of appointments and promotions made each year by a Provincial Grand Master is based on the number of Brethren in the Province as advised by the United Grand Lodge of England.

Allocations made to the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters for their Area are based on a factor of the number of Brethren in their Area as a proportion of the Provincial total.

The Honours will be grouped into four categories,

- Acting Ranks
- Past Ranks (First Appointments)
- Past Ranks (Promotions)
- Mid-year Promotions.

Each Assistant Provincial Grand Master should nominate Brethren for Acting Rank according to his allocation as identified in the Provincial schedule. Additional requests may be made but will not necessarily be approved. This will be at the discretion of the Honours Panel and subject to the approval of the Provincial Grand Master.

Apart from Provincial Grand Steward, a Brother will not normally be appointed to Acting Rank unless he is a subscribing member of the Royal Arch, other than in exceptional circumstances

The rank of Provincial Grand Steward is considered special and is normally for those Brethren who are 60 years of age or under and who show particular promise. An exception to this rule can be made for a Brother who is particularly active and worthy of the Office. A Brother appointed to this office, if not already a Companion, will be encouraged to join the Royal Arch prior to any subsequent promotion.

With the lowering of the number of United Grand Lodge Collars being awarded, the Rank of Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden position is now seen as the very senior possible award. These will be allocated, on a normal basis, of only one per AProvGM per year.

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

After completion of the Application Form by the Brother, (with the assistance of his Lodge Secretary if necessary), the application form must be checked for accuracy and completeness and countersigned by the Lodge Secretary. **This is not to approve the application being submitted, but merely to record the Lodge is aware of its submission and that the information is broadly correct.** The form must then be sent to the Area Chairman by the set date. Before that date, the Area Chairman is available for any guidance that may be required. In addition:

- **‘PETITIONING’:** A Lodge does not have the right to Petition for an appointment to, or promotion in Provincial Grand Lodge, but can, if it so wishes, support an application made by a Brother. Neither does a Lodge have the authority to vet applications that are to be submitted. There is no limit on the number of Brethren that can make application from the same Lodge, each year, or the number of appointments or promotions that a single Lodge can receive in one year.
- **PAST MASTERS LODGES:** Special consideration may be given to Brethren in Past Masters Lodges / Representative Lodges (with the exception of those listed in Section F), who are no longer members of any other Lodge, but who have continued to make a significant contribution. Such Brethren will be eligible to submit an application for either an appointment or promotion.
- **NEWLY CONSECRATED LODGES:** Brethren from newly Consecrated Lodges will not be eligible to submit applications until the fourth year after the Consecration of the Lodge. They may of course make an application under the banner of any other Lodge of which they are a subscribing member.
- **BANDS:** First Appointments are usually made within Band One *[See Section I]*. Subsequent Promotions will be by one step either within a Band or to the next Band, whichever is appropriate.
- **NOTIFICATION:** Honours Offer Letters will be distributed in accordance with the published timetable.
- **JOINING MEMBERS FROM OTHER PROVINCES:** Brethren who have not been through the Chair in a Lodge 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 will be recognised within that Province. Any service given to their East Lancashire Lodge/s will be considered on its own merits including the time they have been a member of this Province.

=====

Section B –Appointments:

Every East Lancashire Brother who has been Installed as Worshipful Master **in an East Lancashire Lodge** and five years have elapsed since he installed his successor, **qualifies** for consideration. [i.e. **five years** must have elapsed by the date of the annual investiture meeting since the Brother installed his successor or completed twelve months as Master]. A degree of flexibility will be applied, to ensure a Brother is not disadvantaged by when their Lodge Installation date falls.

Unless there is a good reason, all Brethren who have not received a Provincial Appointment after the qualifying period should be reviewed by their AProvGM.

This **does not** mean that the Brother will receive an appointment after five years; 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 prestigious office and is kept to encourage primarily younger Brethren who are particularly active. The office can be awarded at any time after the Brother has served twelve months as Master.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master, together with his Area Chairman, will review the applications received from Brethren using set criteria including:

- a Brother's service in the Lodge
- a Brother's service since becoming Master
- whether he has occupied one of the senior Offices of the Lodge
- any ritual which has been undertaken by him,
- his attendance record
- whether he has made any contribution
 - to his Masonic Hall
 - in his Area
 - in the Province, including service on any of its committees
 - in the local community

Additionally, an Assistant Provincial Grand Master, having consulted with his Area Chairman, may recommend other Brethren that might merit an Appointment, but who have not submitted an Application Form, for consideration during the moderation process and should provide the necessary background information to justify those recommendations.

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

The highest possible Past Rank that will be given on the first appointment is usually Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon. However, to give a yardstick, a Past Master, who has served his Lodge and attends at least 80% of the meetings, might be expected to be appointed to the rank of Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

=====

Section C - Discretionary Appointments:

Neither a Lodge nor an individual Brother can apply for a Discretionary Collar. 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.

Such Appointments can be recommended: -

- For the good of the Area.
- For the good of the Province.
- To acknowledge a Brother who is deemed to have special qualities.

As previously indicated, in the case of Area Officers, Acting Ranks and special cases, the date regime does not apply.

=====

Section D – Promotions:

The criterion and application form [Appendix A] used for a promotion is the same as that used for an appointment.

Recommendations for promotion to Past Ranks are initially prepared by each Assistant Provincial Grand Master in liaison with his Area Chairman. Each year they will review all the applications received and the Provincial Officers in their Areas.

The qualifying time for a promotion is that **seven years** must have elapsed from receiving a first appointment or since their last promotion.

The date regime will be observed.

To assist, if required, a list of Brethren last honoured seven years or more ago, can be made available from the Area Chairman.

This qualifying period does not apply to Brethren who are appointed;

- to Provincial Grand Steward
- to a lower Acting Rank – [those **below** ProvJGD]

Normally, a Brother holding one of the above Offices, providing that he has continued to make progress, will be promoted to PProvAGDC, PProvJGD or PProvSGD, two years after moving to the Past Rank for his Acting Office.

The rank of ProvGStwd is prestigious. If a Brother, for whatever reason, does not continue to progress he should be promoted to a Rank not higher than PProvAGDC; a Brother should not remain PProvGStwd for more than two years. A Brother demonstrating DC potential might be considered for promotion to the Acting Rank of ProvAGDC. On the occasions that this happens the Brother would be expected to serve as a PProvAGDC for two years before being eligible for promotion.

Promotions should normally be from “band to band”, [See Section I] even if the appropriate promotion means the jump from one band to another is by a single step. However, if the promotion is pertinent to a step within a band [e.g. PProvAGDC to PProvJGD or PProvJGD to PProvSGD], then a one step promotion should be awarded.

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

It is possible, of course, for a Brother to receive more than one Promotion during his involvement as a Craft Freemason. It is also possible for a Brother to receive no Promotion at all if he has given little or no contribution since his Appointment or last Promotion in Provincial Grand Lodge.

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

This means that if a Brother 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 Deputy range is typically awarded to those Brethren performing at Area level or for Brethren having demonstrable and substantial involvement in Masonic / Hall / Community activities, acceptable in the moderation process.

The full rank will normally be for senior officials of the Area / Province / ELMC or, for those Brethren who have other demonstrable and substantial qualities agreed in the moderation process.

As is the case with First Appointments, an Assistant Provincial Grand Master, having consulted with his Area Chairman, may recommend other Brethren that might merit a Promotion but who have not submitted an Application Form, for consideration during the moderation process and should provide the necessary background information to justify those recommendations.

Section E –Designated Ranks:

Area Appointments / Promotions

A newly appointed Area Chairman should be promoted to his substantive rank at the earliest opportunity. Other Area Officers should serve for at least one year in their position before attaining their designated rank.

A designated rank awarded to an Area Officer will normally be a promoted rank.

However, an appointment to an Area Office should usually qualify a Brother, if he is not already a Provincial Officer, for a first appointment up to and including Acting or PProvSGD.

Under normal circumstances, one year later, [or after a further period of time, and after considering the progress made by the occupant of the Office], he should normally be promoted to PProvDepGDC and, finally, the substantive rank designated to that particular Office, e.g.

Area Chairman	to	Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden
Area Deputy Chairman	to	Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer
Area Secretary	to	Past Provincial Grand Supt of Works
Area Membership Officer	to	Past Provincial Grand Supt of Works
Royal Arch Area Officer	to	Past Provincial Deputy Grand DC
Area Almoner	to	Past Provincial Deputy Grand DC
Area Charity Steward	to	Past Provincial Deputy Grand DC
Area Mentor	to	Past Provincial Deputy Grand DC
Area Communications Officer	to	Past Provincial Deputy Grand DC

Others

Provided a Brother merits a Promotion, either within a band, or to another band, the Promotion he could normally expect would be within the following parameters:

After two years in a Past Rank [for example]

ProvAGStB	to	Past Provincial AGDC or PProvJGD
ProvGStB, ProvAGDC	to	PProvSGD [if in the RA], otherwise PProvAGDC or PProvJGD
Provincial Grand Steward	to	PProvAGDC/PProvJGD/PProvSGD Current RA Membership essential for the latter

After seven years [for example]:

Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	to	PProvJGD or PProvSGD if in the RA
Past Provincial AGDC	to	PProvJGD or PProvSGD if in the RA
Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon	to	PProvDepGDC
Past Provincial Deputy Grand DC	to	PProvGSuptWks or PProvGSwdB
PProvGSuptWks	to	PProvGSwdB, PProvGReg or PProvJGW
PProvGSwdB or PProvGReg	to	PProvJGW

Promotion to a higher rank than that indicated will be considered only in exceptional circumstances.

Section F – Lodges which do not normally receive Provincial Honours:

Fortitude Lodge	64
East Lancashire Provincial Officers' Lodge	3747
East Lancashire Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge	8408

Section G –Data Sheets:

Data sheets should be used on all occasions; they provide important background information.

Section H – Rosette Collar:

Where a recommendation is made to the Honours Panel for a Brother who has not been through the Chair, but who has given exceptional service to his Lodge of at least 15 years, the award will be at the level of **PProvGPurs**.

Section I – Banding:

Band One – Appointments

Provincial / Past Provincial Grand Pursuivant
Provincial / Past Provincial Assistant Grand Standard Bearer
Provincial / Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer
Provincial / Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

Band Two – Appointments AND Promotions

Provincial / Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon
Provincial / Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon

Band Three - Promotions

Provincial / Past Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies

Band Four – Promotions

Provincial / Past Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works
Provincial / Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer
Provincial / Past Provincial Grand Registrar

Band Five – Promotions

Provincial / Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden
Provincial / Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden

The consistent allocation of the levels of Honours' recommendations will ensure that:

- a Brother who has:
 - held a good [80%+] attendance record
 - been through the Chair in a conscientious and dignified manner
 - conducted an appropriate number of ceremonies.might be placed as a PProvAGDC.
- If, for good reasons, he falls short of the above criterion, but deserves an honour, he can be awarded any of the lower Bands, depending upon the particular circumstances.

- If the Brother has held a Senior Office for a period of time, (usually 5 years) then the position of PProvJGD can be awarded or, if in the RA and having usually completed 10 years, in one of those offices PProvSGD can be awarded.
- If he is of a very high standard, or an Area / Provincial Official progressing to a Designated Office then PProvSGD can be recommended, rising in due time to the substantive rank.

=====

Section J – Moderation:

Once the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters have completed their recommended lists, they are sent to the Secretariat where the lists are collated, checked for accuracy, considered and moderated by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, together with Provincial Grand Secretary, patch AProvGM and Area Chairman, [importance is given to the full completion of the Application Form, which includes Section C] prior to being presented to the Honours Panel, which then meets to verify and confirm each recommendation for Appointment or Promotion. Care is taken by the Honours Panel to examine the full recommended Honours Lists, as it is important that we achieve fairness and reasonableness for each decision.

All the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters are present at the Honours Panel meeting. This means that at least one member of the Panel knows the background to the Brother under discussion. The final agreed list is then presented to the RW Provincial Grand Master who, before giving approval, reviews the list.

Brethren need to remember that the Honours system is a meritocracy and is there to honour Brethren for their service to our Order.

The rank awarded is based on the quality of the contribution each Brother has made to his Lodge, Hall, Area, Province, Freemasonry, his local community and society in general, and in anticipation of his ability to contribute further, in the future.

Brethren who do not satisfy the guidance and who are unsuccessful in their application will be advised accordingly by their Assistant Provincial Grand Master or Area Chairman.

=====

Section K – Royal Arch:

Membership of the Royal Arch is usually seen as an essential qualification for an;

- **Acting Officer:** The exception to this is the office of Steward where the holder will be expected to become a RA Mason during, or immediately after, his year in office.
- **Appointment to the rank of PProvDepGDC and above.**

Exceptions to this rule where a Brother is not a member of the Royal Arch can be considered when:

- A Brother is 80 years old, or above
- Where a Brother has given 30 years of active service to the Craft. This does not mean just attending, but an active involvement in Offices or roles which are making a contribution, adding value to the life and running of the Lodge e.g. Treasurer, Secretary, DC, Charity Steward etc.
- Where the Brother is suffering a chronic illness.
(In each of the above cases the recommendation is taken to the Honours Panel for verification)
- Where the Honour is to be conferred at a Lodge Celebration such as Golden Jubilee, Centenary, 150th, Bi Centenary and 250th.

=====

Section L – Fees / Dues:

A Brother must:

- be a subscribing member of an East Lancashire Lodge at the time of application and preferment.
- be clear of any encumbrance of dues to any Lodge or Chapter [i.e. he should not be indebted to any Lodge or Chapter and have not been excluded from, or ceased membership, of any Lodge or Chapter].
- pay a fee on first appointment, first promotion and second promotion.

Fees are not due for

- any appointment to an office below the level of a Brother's current Rank.
- any subsequent Honour after the second promotion.

Provincial Grand Lodge of East Lancashire

Honours Application Form 2026

Appointment to, or Promotion within Provincial Grand Lodge (November 2026)

Surname Forename(s)

Lodge Name & No

Address

..... Year of Birth

Email:

Profession (even if retired)

Year Initiated Installation **Date**

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

Please complete the following statements:	
SECTION A	OFFICE DURING THE YEAR(S)
I served the Lodge as:	Chaplain..... Treasurer..... Secretary Asst Secretary..... D of C Asst D of C Charity Representative..... Almoner..... Area Representative..... R.A. Representative..... Festival Representative..... Other
I have worked the Installation Ceremony on.....occasions	
I have served as Master for a subsequent year during.....	
I have worked/demonstrated the ceremony of Initiationtimes
I have worked/demonstrated the ceremony of Passingtimes
I have worked/demonstrated the ceremony of Raisingtimes
I am a member of the Royal Arch, Chapter Name/No.....	
SECTION B – Since I Installed my successor:	
Out of a total of meetings, I have attended% of the meetings.	
No. of occasions I have delivered a Charge.....	
No. of occasions I have delivered a Tracing Board	
No. of occasions I have delivered an Address	
No. of occasions I have delivered a Lecture	
No. of occasions I have delivered the Traditional History	

Please ensure that all sections [including Section C] are completed, the form has been countersigned and return one copy to your Area Chairman [not the Provincial Office] by 30 January 2026.

QUALIFYING TIME LIMITS

- **First Appointment:** **Five years** must have elapsed by the date of the annual Investiture meeting since the Brother completed 12 months as Master.
- **Promotion:** **Seven years** must have elapsed since the Brother received his first appointment / last promotion.

SECTION C – The completion of this section is **important, indeed essential**, particularly when an application is being considered for promotion. Mention any special activities, **other than those in Section A**, including Public Service that should be brought to the notice of the RW Provincial Grand Master.

SECTION D

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

I confirm that I am not indebted to any Lodge or Chapter and have not been excluded from, or ceased membership, via BOC Rule 181, 148 (Craft), 71(RA) of any Lodge or Chapter.

Before completing this Form, please check that you are eligible and that there is sufficient supportive evidence, (especially Section C – **do not leave blank**).

A copy of the 2026 Honours' Guidelines can be obtained from your Lodge Secretary, or from the Secretariat Section of the Provincial Website.

SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE

So far as I am aware the particulars on this form are broadly correct.

SIGNATURE OF SECRETARY DATE