

A Guide to the

ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EMERGENCY MEASURES FOR COVID-19 (the “further Measures”)

Introduction

1. The further Measures, like the original Temporary Emergency Measures, have been introduced by direction of the MW The Grand Master to assist Lodges in these difficult and unprecedented times for Freemasonry. **The further Measures, which will expire on the same date as the original Temporary Emergency Measures, have all the force of Rules in the Book of Constitutions.**
2. A consolidated version of both sets of Temporary Emergency Measures, together with a consolidated Guide to them is also available.
3. Those Brethren who belong to other Orders will be aware that those Orders have produced their own responses to the challenges, just as each of those Orders has its own equivalent of the Book of Constitutions. **What applies in other Orders must not be assumed to apply also to the Craft, because in the Craft only the Book of Constitutions, the Edicts of Grand Lodge (see *Information for the Guidance of Members of the Craft*) and the consolidated Measures are relevant.**

New Provisions

4. Although it was not until 17 March 2020 that the Grand Master imposed a four-month suspension of Lodge and Chapter meetings in England and Wales (anticipating by a week the first full “lockdown” by the Government), the Grand Secretary’s Office started to receive enquiries from Lodges and Chapters about the abandonment of meetings soon after the beginning of that month. The effective date for the new provisions of 1 March 2021 has therefore been chosen to reflect the fact that by that date it will be almost a full year since Lodges in England and Wales have been able to function normally.
5. In the absence of any unexpected development in the course of the pandemic it seems likely that meetings will return to a semblance of normality at some stage in the summer months. In very many cases Lodges will either not have been able to change their Master during the period since 1 March 2020, or will have chosen not to do so. To address a general concern that stagnation may result if Lodges are forced to continue for a third year with the same Master, the further measures have been introduced. The measures also address the situation where a Master has died or resigned in the course of the year.
6. A dispensation to elect and install a new Master at the same meeting (**which may be an emergency meeting**) will be available, until 31 December 2021 in two situations. First, where on a regular date of Installation falling on or after 1 March 2021 the Master will have completed (or be deemed under Rule 106 or Rule 108 to have completed) two full years in office and, because the Lodge is unable to meet, would be required by the Rules in the Book of Constitutions to serve for a *third* year in succession.

7. Secondly, where the Master has died during his term of office (ending on or after 1 March), so that the Senior Warden has summoned the Lodge for the remainder of that term (Rule 119(a)). If, because the Lodge is unable to meet to elect a new Master and install him on the regular date of Installation, the Senior Warden would otherwise have to summon the Lodge for the next year as well, a dispensation will enable a Master to be elected and installed.

8. In either situation the new Regulation 10 will ensure (a) that a Master so elected and installed will not be debarred, by shortened service, from membership of the Grand Lodge under Rule 9 (or from wearing a Past Master's collar), and (b) that a Warden invested at that installation meeting will be qualified, under Rule 105, to be elected as Master at the next election meeting.

Notes:

- (i) *If a Lodge is content that the same Brother continue in office for a third year in succession by the normal operation of the Rules, it is not obliged to seek a dispensation to elect and install a new Master.*
- (ii) *A dispensation under Regulation 8 may be granted **only** if the same Brother would be required to serve as Master for a third year in succession.*
- (iii) *The dispensation referred to in paragraph 7 above (under Regulation 9) may also be granted if the Master has ceased to be a subscribing member of the Lodge other than by death. (NB: A Brother can resign as Master only by resigning from the Lodge.)*

The Royal Arch

9. No special provision has been made for the Royal Arch, since Royal Arch Regulation 54, when read in conjunction with Rule 106 of the Book of Constitutions, already permits the election and installation of a qualified Companion in any of the Principals' chairs.