



Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire

APPOINTMENTS TO AND PROMOTIONS IN ACTIVE AND PAST PROVINCIAL GRAND RANKS

The number of appointments which can be made to Provincial Grand Rank each year is limited by the Book of Constitutions and in this province is not sufficient for one from each Lodge, each year.

The conferment of Provincial Grand Rank is the prerogative of the Provincial Grand Master, whose decision cannot be questioned.

Rank is conferred in respect of an individual's merits and not in respect of the merits of the Lodge.

The honour conferred on a Brother is that of being appointed one of the officers, Present or Past of the Provincial Grand Master, irrespective of the Rank of that Office.

Rank is not only a reward and recognition for past service but is to be regarded as an opportunity and incentive for further service to Freemasonry.

1. FIRST APPOINTMENTS

Forms for Past Masters (PMs) or Master Masons (MMs) to be considered for a First Appointment to Provincial Grand Rank are generated by the Provincial Office in early January and sent directly to Lodge Secretaries. The Lodge Secretary should convene a meeting of PMs (or a nominated Appointments/Promotions Committee), of and within the Lodge to consider the merits and suitability of the PM/MM in question or to nominate any other Lodge member as a special case.

2. CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENTS

The system ensures that all subscribing Past Masters are considered for appointment **6 years following the completion of their year as Worshipful Master**. The fact that a Brother has served his Lodge as Worshipful Master and remained a subscribing member for that period does not automatically entitle him to receive a First Appointment. Consideration must be given to the support he has given to the Lodge since leaving the Chair, and more importantly, what he is likely to do for his Lodge, and the Province, in the future. In addition, MMs of long standing and who have given considerable service to the Lodge and Freemasonry in general and to the Province in particular may also be considered on a case by case basis. It is entirely within the right of the PrGM to appoint a potentially outstanding Brother at any point in the Brother's Masonic career. For such Brethren, a Letter of Preferment is required to be submitted to the Province detailing why an early or accelerated promotion is deemed worthy of such consideration, should a letter of preferment be rejected, and no promotion granted then only one further letter will be permitted.

3. ACTIVE RANK

The number of Active Ranks available is governed by the number of subscribing Brethren in the Province. Certain offices are NOT available to Lodges to recommend Brethren for appointment because of the specialist nature of the Office - these include Wardens, Chaplain, Treasurer, Registrar, Secretary, Director of Ceremonies, Deputy Director of Ceremonies, Almoner, Charity Steward, Membership Officer, Communications Officer, Mentor, Learning & Development Officer, Assistant Secretary, Organist and Tyler.

Recommendations may be made for:

PrGSwdB PrGSuptWks PrSGD PrJGD PrAGDC PrGStB PrGPurs PrGStwd

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A suitable Candidate for Active Rank should have good Masonic abilities, good bearing and be able to regularly attend Official Visits in all parts of the Province throughout the year without detriment to his family and business commitments. It should also be borne in mind that a successful nomination for Active Rank could result in the Brother being offered an appointment junior to a direct past rank. In addition to attending at Installation meetings, an Active Officer is expected to support **ALL** Provincial activities during their term of office. This includes a required attendance at the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, the annual church service, Provincial dinners, and other Provincial events.

4. PAST RANK

There are also restrictions on the number of Past Rank First Appointments which can be made, and also the Ranks generally available are limited to:

PPrGSwdB PPrSGD PPrJGD PPrAGDC PPrGStB PPrGStwd PPrGPurs

5. PROMOTION

In general a Brother must have held his existing Provincial Grand Rank for **at least SIX years**, before he can be considered for a promotion. **It is NOT an 'automatic right' to receive a promotion after this period.** A Brother's recommendation should be based on his continued support of both the Province and his Lodge since his last appointment. (Regular attendance at meetings and occasionally working ritual will not be sufficient to justify promotion). Certain Active Ranks result in an automatic promotion, after one or two years, subject to a satisfactory report.

6. PROMOTION UNDER RULE 69A, B OF C

Recommendation for promotion of a Brother who holds Provincial Grand Rank in another Province must reflect his meritorious service to the Province of Wiltshire.

7. PROMOTION UNDER RULE 69B, B OF C

Recommendation for first appointment to Provincial Grand Rank may be made on behalf of Past Masters of Lodges in other Provinces, who have also given meritorious service to the Craft and to the Province of Wiltshire for a period of 6 years, but who do not hold Provincial Rank elsewhere. Such cases are, however, subject to the need for the Provincial Grand Secretary to justify and seek a Dispensation from Grand Lodge to make the appointment.

8. SCHEDULE OF RANKS AVAILABLE FOR PROMOTIONS.

PPrSGW (this is an exceptional and rare promotion and initiated only by the PrGM)

PPrJGW (this tends to be the pinnacle of a Masonic career for those who do not make Grand Rank, and while numbers are limited tends to be awarded to those who have shown active service to the Province and their Lodge.

PPrGReg PPrGSwdB PPrGSuptWks PPrDepGDC PPrSGD PPrJGD PPrAGDC

9. APPROPRIATENESS OF ALL RECOMENDATIONS

It is expected that recommendations will be made based on Masonic ability, manner, bearing, conduct and commitment of the Brother concerned and not on prejudice of any kind from any source. Failure to acknowledge letters of appointment within a month of despatch letter of appointment/promotion may result in such appointments/promotions being withdrawn.

Appointment to and promotion in Grand Rank

1. APPOINTMENT/PROMOTION TO GRAND RANK - ACTIVE AND PAST RANK

Such appointments are entirely at the discretion of the Grand Master following a recommendation of the Provincial Grand Master. In general recommendations of those who will be over 80 years of age on the date of investiture will need to be justified.

For First Appointment to Grand Rank a Brother is therefore expected **to have been an Installed Master for TEN years** (or seven years if he is really outstanding)

OR

- a) to have been an Installed Master for at least five years; **AND**
- b) have held Metropolitan, Provincial or District Rank (other than Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Steward) for at least five years; **AND**
- c) have held within that period an acting Metropolitan, Provincial or District office, higher than Metropolitan, Provincial or District Senior Grand Deacon, which is a “working office” (e.g. Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Warden, Chaplain, Director of Ceremonies (or Deputy), Almoner), or be currently Provincial or District Assistant Grand Secretary

OR

to have been an Installed Master for at least six years and to be a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Secretary

PROMOTION IN GRAND RANK

Candidates for promotion already hold Grand Rank and the element of reward for past service may predominate. In appropriate circumstances, therefore, candidates of any age will be considered.

Brethren should not be recommended for promotion **before they have served EIGHT years** in their present rank (5 years for ranks AGStB down to PAGPurs). In exceptional circumstances, this requirement may be relaxed.

ALLOCATION OF GRAND RANKS

This Province normally receives only one and a half Grand Ranks per year and one promotion in Grand Rank every two years.

NOTE:

Under no circumstances should Brethren write to Grand Lodge enquiring about the possibility of appointment to/promotion in Grand Rank.