



THE ORDER *of* ST. GEORGE

Grand Priory of the United Kingdom
BM The Order of St. George, London WC1N 3XX

Protocol and Procedure for Advancement, Honours and Decorations of the United Kingdom Grand Priory of the International Knightly Order Valiant of St George (The Order)

This document is in regard to considering for the advancement or other recognition, any member of the Order or individuals or organisations outside the Order.

These protocols and procedures develop further the Membership Policy in regard to Promotion and Advancement.

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1. The Protocol.

- 1.1 As in true chivalric orders, membership is an honour and advancement or promotion are never solicited.

Advancement or promotion could be in rank or through one of the Order's other tokens of recognition, such as awards and medals that it has or agrees to use from time-to-time.

- 1.2 Members who put themselves forward for advancement or promotion could be seen as self-seeking and their motives questionable. However, their motivations could be quite innocent. In all such circumstances, they will be advised of the correct process.

- 1.3 Members, who it is felt are deserving of advancement or promotion, should be nominated by another member using the prescribed method. The nominator must set out clearly, in writing, the reason for the nomination along with all evidence and relevant dates.

The key to a successful nomination is the evidence and the impact. In all cases the Order reserves the right to validate any such evidence.

- 1.4 Where evidence cannot be substantiated, or deadlines not met, the nomination will be declined.

- 1.5 Nominations must be signed and dated and include a seconder who must also sign and date the nomination. In some cases, this will not be necessary if the nominator is well known to the Grand Priory, because of their work for the Order or the associated Charitable Trust. In such cases, the Deputy Grand Prior will consult with the Grand Chancellor. If a seconder is required a 14 day period will be allowed for this to happen.

- 1.6 All requests must be sent to the Deputy Grand Prior responsible for membership, policies, protocols and procedures in writing. The Deputy Grand Prior will carry out any necessary checks and ensure the information is complete. This may involve asking for further information which the nominator will need to provide within 14 days of such a request.
- 1.7 The nomination, along with any supporting information and comments, will then be forward to the Grand Prior within 14 days of the necessary checks being complete.
- 1.8 Grand Prior is the only member of the Order with the authority to grant any advancement, promotion or award.
- 1.9 In the Grand Prior's prolonged absence and therefore unable to be act or be consulted, a UK Grand Priory Deputy Grand Prior in consultation with the UK Grand Priory Grand Chancellor will act as if they were the Grand Prior.
- 1.10 At all times, notwithstanding 1.9 above, advancement, promotion and the giving of the Order's awards, including to people who are not members, is at the discretion of the Grand Prior.
- 1.11 Whilst members of the Grand Council, through the Grand Prior at their meetings, always consider promotions, advancement or the giving of the Orders Awards, the Grand Prior retains the right to approve or decline any application or request made by any member, irrespective of rank within the Order or length of service.
- 1.12 Nominations from members will not be entertained that have not been properly set out in writing and follow the set procedures listed here. Any nominator who tries to bypass the procedures or curry favour will be advised accordingly of the correct process.
- 1.13 When considering any advancement, promotion or award, the first priority must be the Order. Therefore, advancement or promotion to higher ranks or an award within the Order will only be considered for members who have contributed significantly to the work of the Order or the work of the associated Charitable Trust.
- 1.14 Advancement, promotion, honours or awards cannot be bought.

(Throughout this guidance, the terms 'contribution significantly or contribution' does not mean financial contribution. However, in some circumstances, where the work of the member, or an individual or group has resulted in fundraising that has significantly improved the lives of others less fortunate or assisted the work of the associated Charitable Trust, it might)

- 1.15 Those members nominating another member for advancement or promotion should first establish what significant contribute the member has made to the work of the Order or the associated Charitable Trust; as that will be the primary consideration of the Grand Prior.
- 1.16 Where the member has made a considerable and significant contribution to their local or wider community, which is outside the work of the Order or the associated Charitable Trust and not associated with it, the nominator **should first** considered the other forms of recognition available to citizens of the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories.

- 1.17 For UK Grand Priory members who wish to nominate another member or person who is not a UK Grand Priory member or citizen of the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories but they believe that member or person has made a considerable and significant contribution to their local or wider community, which is outside the work of the Order or the Charitable Trust, the nominator should contact the Deputy Grand Prior responsible for Membership, Policies, Protocols and Procedures for advice.

2. The Order of Merit of the Order of St George

- 2.1 Where a member has made a considerable and significant contribution to their local or wider community, which is outside the work of the Order or the associated Charitable Trust and not associated with it, the Grand Prior may consider the individual for membership of the Order of Merit of the Order of St George; a companionate Order which can be granted to members of the Order.
- 2.2 Where the member has made a considerable and significant contribution to the work of the Order or the associated Charitable Trust, the Grand Prior may consider the individual for membership of the Order of Merit of the Order of St George; a companionate Order which can be granted to members of the Order.
- 2.3 Where an individual, who is not a member but has made a considerable and significant contribution to their local or wider community, the Grand Prior may consider the individual for membership of the Order of Merit of the Order of St George; a companionate Order which can also be granted to individuals outside the Order.
- 2.4 Where an organisation or group outside the Order has made a considerable and significant contribution to their local or wider community the Grand Prior will consider awarding the organisation or group the Order of Merit of the Order of St George; a companionate Order which can be awarded to organisations or groups outside the Order.

Whilst the Grand Prior has the authority to promote, advance and grant the Order's awards to individuals, groups and organisation without consultation, the Grand Council members will be consulted prior to any final decision being made. This will be done to ensure openness and to avoid inappropriate promotions, advancements and awards being granted or made.

- 2.5 There are two grades within the Order of Merit. Each comes with a full sized medal and a miniature mounted on a yellow ribbon with a white line in from each edge. The recipient also receives a brevet of appointment.

- i. Grade 1 – Member of the Order of Merit – post nominal MMStG
- ii. Grade 2 – Knight/Dame of the Order of Merit – post nominal KMStG or DMStG

N.B. The term Knight and Dame of the Order of Merit must not be confused with the rank of Knight or Dame of the Order; KStG/DStG or higher. The Order of Merit does not come with any entitlement to use any pre-nominals. Neither award (KMStG/DMStG) entitles the recipient to be referred to as a Knight or Dame of the Order of St George.

- 2.6 In the case of an organisation, the brevet and the medal will be presented mounted within a frame. This is because the award is not being given to an individual but the

organisation. As such it cannot be worn publicly or privately by any individual, but displayed for others to see.

- 2.7 Where individuals or organisations are recipients of the Order of Merit, it will be presented at a formal ceremony agreed in advance by the Grand Prior for that purpose.

3. National Awards

- 3.1 The Order is not currently a nationally recognised awarding body. However, members and senior officers of the Order can recommend other members who are citizens of the United Kingdom, and its Overseas Territories for National Awards or recognition such as the MBE, CBE, OBE etc.
- 3.2 Very careful consideration will be given to the grounds for any recommendation by the Order of any individual for a National Award or any promotion, advancement, honour or award within the Order.

4. General Information

- 4.1 Any awards made by the Order are its own. Those in receipt must ensure they comply with the any laws (UK, overseas and internationally) in regard to use or reference in writing, display or in any form of self-promotion of any honours, awards or decorations that they have received through the Order. This particularly applies to citizens of the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories. Citizens of other countries must abide by the laws of their country and, as part of their membership agreement with the Order, the Order's Policies, Protocols and Procedures.

(The Order has a strict policy and associated protocols and procedures, in regard to wearing of the its regalia and use of its awards, honours and decorations)

- 4.2 At all times, the Grand Prior may admit to the Order, at a rank or with an award of the Grand Prior's choosing, worthy individuals wishing to join who have made a significant contrition to their local or wider community.

The Grand Prior will consult with the Grand Council members prior to any final decision being made. This will be done to ensure openness and to avoid inappropriate promotions, advancements and awards being granted or made.

- 4.3 All those receiving promotions, advancement and awards will be gazetted on the Order's website for approximately one month. The announcement will be within GDPR guidance and rules and, if relevant, safeguarding rules.

5. Procedure

- 5.1 All nominations from members who are not Grand Council members must be submitted in writing to the Deputy Grand Prior responsible for Membership, Policies, Protocols and Procedures. membership@orderofstegeorge.co.uk

- 5.2 All nominations must include precise/succinct details outlining the reason for the nomination. This must include proven evidence (impact statement) and necessary dates.
- 5.3 The Deputy Grand Prior will review the nomination and, if all is as it should be, forward to Grand Prior within 14 days of receipt of any final documentation.
- 5.4 The Grand Prior will consider the nomination and, if accepting the nomination, will decide on the style and type of award to be granted to the individual.
- 5.5 Nominations made by Grand Council members should be sent directly to the Grand Prior and be supported with all relevant documentation.
- 5.6 Should the Grand Prior decide not to accept the nomination, the nominator will be advised in writing by the Grand Prior or, if delegated, the Deputy Grand Prior. The Grand Prior may, but is not is not obliged to, say why. The Deputy Grand Prior, if asked to reply, will be advised accordingly.
- 5.7 All promotions and nominations will be brought before the Grand Council by the Grand Prior, where the views and opinions of the Grand Council members will be sought before a final decision is made by the Grand Prior.
- 5.8 All promotions, advancement and awards outcomes will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 5.9 All promotions, advancement and awards granted will be publish and celebrated in the Order's gazette and remain for approximately one month.
- 5.10 The time scales for receipt by individuals, groups or organisations of promotions, advancement or awards is at the discretion of the Grand Prior who will consider any relevant circumstances.

6. Removal of ranks, titles, privileges and awards.

- 6.1 Where any member of the order or an individual, group or organisation outside the Order, has been granted membership of the Order, an advancement, promotion, honour or award, but subsequently:
- i. has brought the Order into disrepute,
 - ii. deliberately and or intentionally broken any of the Order's policies, protocols and procedures,
 - iii. their actions outside the Order have resulted in proven detriment, disadvantage or harm to others,
 - iv. have committed a criminal offence resulting in a successful prosecution,
 - v. broken charity law (which will be reported to the Charity Commission),
 - vi. after investigation, proven to have breached safeguarding rules (*which prior to a decision must have been reported to the Order's DSL for investigation, in line with the Order's Safeguarding Policy*),
 - vii. significantly or consistently broken the General Data Protection Regulations

(Resulting in an investigation and formal report),
viii the information and/or evidence that resulted in them being granted membership of the Order, an advancement, promotion or award has been proven to be misleading, contrived and/or false.

In such circumstances, the Grand Prior will remove all entitlements granted. This will be either permanently or for a fixed period, after consultation with the Senior Officers of the United Kingdom Grand Priory of the Order and when appropriate, the Trustees of the associated Charitable Trust.

(The Senior Officers of the United Kingdom Grand Priory are, the Deputy Grand Prior(s), the Grand Chancellor and the UK Grand Secretary General)

7. Equality and fairness.

- 7.1 The Order is very conscious that in some other Orders and organisations, those who shout the loudest get heard and are rewarded even if not deserving; the Order of St George will not be such an organisation.
- 7.2 There are many individuals, groups and organisations who provide, or carry out, significant charitable deeds for the benefit of others. Finding and rewarding them is very difficult, as most of them are not seeking recognition and ask for nothing, but are quietly working away carrying out their good deeds. These are the true ‘angels of charity’.
- 7.3 Therefore, the Order will, as far as possible, using the resources available to it, seek those who really should be recognised and rewarded and ensure it does its best to do so.
- 7.4 It will do this through regularly reminding its members, publically and privately, to inform it of these ‘angels of charity’ and ensure that nominations are made. (Also see Angel of Charity Award)

Associated Policies - ALL

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