

## **Freedom of the City – The Royal Regiment of Scotland - Motion dealt with, after division.**

**13** Councillor Adams, seconded by Councillor Stephen Docherty moved that:-

“Council notes that The Royal Regiment of Scotland, formed on 28 March 2006, is the senior line infantry regiment of the British Army and the only remaining Scottish line infantry regiment. The Regiment draws on more than 390 years of continuous service through its antecedent regiments, including The Royal Scots Fusiliers and The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment). Council further notes that in 1959 the Freedom of the City and Royal Burgh of Glasgow was conferred on the Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret’s Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment), whose lineage continues today through the 2nd and 6th Battalions of The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Council acknowledges the long and distinguished record of service of the Regiment and its antecedents, whose soldiers have served with dedication and professionalism in operations at home and overseas, and whose sacrifices have included the loss of life and life-changing injury. Council expresses its gratitude to all who have served and continue to serve.

Council recognises the deep and enduring links between the Regiment and the City of Glasgow. Many Glaswegians serve within SCOTS battalions and many veterans reside across our communities. Council also recognises the significant civic and community role played by 6 SCOTS, Glasgow’s local Army Reserve battalion, including its leadership in City Remembrance commemorations, strong presence in Maryhill, work with youth and community organisations, and partnership support to local employers and Covenant signatories. Council further acknowledges the contribution made by 6 SCOTS to the regeneration of Petershill Sports Pitches during the Covid-19 recovery period.

Council believes that the historic, civic, and contemporary connections between Glasgow and The Royal Regiment of Scotland merit formal recognition by the City.

Council therefore resolves to confer the Freedom of the City of Glasgow upon The Royal Regiment of Scotland during its twentieth anniversary year, with the ceremony to take place between 28 March 2026/27, in recognition of its historic ties, valued community engagement, and distinguished service.

Council will put in place the necessary arrangements for a Freedom of the City ceremony and to engage with the Regiment on an appropriate date and programme of events.”

Bailie MacLeod, seconded by Councillor Blench, moved as an amendment that:-

In Paragraph 1 after ‘2nd and 6th Battalions of The Royal Regiment of Scotland.’  
ADD:

Council regrets the amalgamation of these regiments, with their strong historic links to the City of Glasgow, into a Royal Regiment of Scotland as a result of austerity measures at the time.”

Between Paragraphs 3 & 4 ADD:

“As a result of these deep & enduring links, Council notes that that recruitment into the British Army from Scotland has fallen by 41% over the last decade; further noting that half of Glasgow constituencies reported zero untrained intake into the British Army from the decade before 2024 according to figures released last year by the Times newspaper; and while there has been a fall across the board which has left the British Army strength at its lowest level since the Napoleonic Wars, Council notes that this trend is more marked in Scotland than it is elsewhere on these islands Council therefore hopes that any recognition of the contribution of the Royal Regiment of Scotland to the City can lead to a renewed focus on improving the offer for serving personnel; notes that the UK Armed Forces spends less per capita on its personnel than comparable militaries across Europe; hopes that any putative increase in the defence budget by the current UK Government will also have a commensurate uplift in the pay & conditions for enlisted personnel; and hopes for the creation of an Armed Forces Representative Body, similar to a trade union and responsible for improving personnel welfare.”

After ‘during the Covid 19 recovery period.’ DELETE ALL AND REPLACE

“Council notes that while the ultimate bestowal of Freedom of the City is a matter for Council, it is usually to be expected that this is done with the cooperation of the Lord Provost, who is also ex-officio Lord Lieutenant of the City.

Council further believes that, while there may be precedent, the bestowing of our City’s highest honour upon an organisation, as opposed to an individual or groups of people, is inherently problematic to tie the City of Glasgow in perpetuity to another organisation over which it has no control or oversight. Council therefore puts on record its belief that future conferences of the Freedom of the City do not include organisations and is instead restricted to individuals or groups of people.

Council puts on record that this is not a reflection of the Royal Regiment of Scotland or the personnel who serve as part of it and hopes that it can work with them to acknowledge this milestone in a more appropriate way.”

Councillor Molyneux, seconded by Bailie Carroll, moved as an amendment that:-

Replace paragraph 2 with:

“Council acknowledges the long and distinguished record of service of the Regiment and its antecedents, whose soldiers have often served with dedication and professionalism in operations at home and overseas, and may have suffered loss of life, life-changing injuries and whose experience of conflict operations may have resulted in PTSD, complex trauma, mental ill-health and addictions. Council expresses its gratitude to those who have served and continue to serve and those who support them. Council recognises that the army has traditionally recruited most heavily from deprived communities and that many recruits have experienced family breakdown and other adverse experiences prior to enlisting and therefore may have needs which require to be met on an ongoing basis.

In paragraph 4, after “Royal Regiment of Scotland”, delete all until the end of the motion and replace with:

“are worthy of noting and requests that the Lord Provost consider how this may be achieved.”

During the debate Bailie MacLeod and Councillor Molyneux, with the approval of their seconders, agreed to combine their amendments resulting in the following adjusted amendment:-

“Council notes that The Royal Regiment of Scotland, formed on 28th March 2006, is the senior line infantry regiment of the British Army and the only remaining Scottish line infantry regiment. The Regiment draws on more than 390 years of continuous service through its antecedent regiments, including The Royal Scots Fusiliers and The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment). Council further notes that in 1959 the Freedom of the City and Royal Burgh of Glasgow was conferred on the Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret’s Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment), whose lineage continues today through the 2nd and 6th Battalions of The Royal Regiment of Scotland. Council regrets the amalgamation of these regiments, with their strong historic links to the City of Glasgow, into a Royal Regiment of Scotland as a result of austerity measures at the time.

Council acknowledges the long and distinguished record of service of the Regiment and its antecedents, whose soldiers have often served with dedication and professionalism in operations at home and overseas, and may have suffered loss of life, life-changing injuries and whose experience of conflict operations may have resulted in PTSD, complex trauma, mental ill-health and addictions. Council expresses its gratitude to those who have served and continue to serve and those who support them.

Council recognises the deep and enduring links between the Regiment and the City of Glasgow. Many Glaswegians serve within SCOTS battalions and many veterans reside across our communities. Council also recognises the significant civic and community role played by 6 SCOTS, Glasgow’s local Army Reserve battalion, including its leadership in City Remembrance commemorations, strong presence in Maryhill, work with youth and community organisations, and partnership support to local employers and Covenant signatories. Council further acknowledges the contribution made by 6 SCOTS to the regeneration of Petershill Sports Pitches during the Covid-19 recovery period.

As a result of these deep & enduring links, Council notes that that recruitment into the British Army from Scotland has fallen by 41% over the last decade; further noting that half of Glasgow constituencies reported zero untrained intake into the British Army from the decade before 2024 according to figures released last year by the Times newspaper; and while there has been a fall across the board which has left the British Army strength at its lowest level since the Napoleonic Wars, Council notes that this trend is more marked in Scotland than it is elsewhere on these islands Council therefore hopes that any recognition of the contribution of the Royal Regiment of Scotland to the City can lead to a renewed focus on improving the offer for serving personnel; notes that the UK Armed Forces spends less per capita on its personnel than comparable militaries across Europe; hopes that any putative

increase in the defence budget by the current UK Government will also have a commensurate uplift in the pay & conditions for enlisted personnel; and hopes for the creation of an Armed Forces Representative Body, similar to a trade union and responsible for improving personnel welfare.

Council notes that while the ultimate bestowal of Freedom of the City is a matter for Council, it is usually to be expected that this is done with the cooperation of the Lord Provost, who is also ex-officio Lord Lieutenant of the City.

Council further believes that, while there may be precedent, the bestowing of our City's highest honour upon an organisation, as opposed to an individual or groups of people, is inherently problematic to tie the City of Glasgow in perpetuity to another organisation over which it has no control or oversight. Council therefore puts on record its belief that future conferences of the Freedom of the City do not include organisations and is instead restricted to individuals or groups of people.

Council puts on record that this is not a reflection of the Royal Regiment of Scotland or the personnel who serve as part of it and hopes that it can work with them to acknowledge this milestone in a more appropriate way."

On a vote being taken electronically and by calling the roll, 39 voted for the amendment as adjusted and 28 for the motion, with 1 abstention.

The amendment as adjusted was accordingly declared to be carried.