

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Full Council

Date: 21/05/2025

Subject: Freedom of The Borough

Report of: The Leader of the Council – Councillor Stephen Cowan

Responsible Director: Grant Deg, Monitoring Officer

SUMMARY

In recognition of their outstanding military service, the Council is requested to confer the “Honorary Freedom of the Borough” on The Coldstream Guards – a Regiment of the British Army.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Council confer the Honorary Freedom of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham on The Coldstream Guards – a Regiment of the British Army in recognition of their gallant and outstanding military service to the Country.
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Wards Affected: All

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values
Creating a compassionate council	The work of the Coldstream Guards, Number 17 Company has supported engagement with local residents at several events including establishing the Armed Forces Day event at St. Paul’s Gardens in partnership with the Council.
Taking pride in H&F	Number 17 Company and the Mayor started the annual Hammersmith & Fulham Mayor’s Coldstream Guards Awards for local schools to recognise the contribution of pupils and providing events for their benefit. Voluntary work in civic life is a cornerstone of how residents and organisations are able to contribute to Civic renewal.

Financial Impact

The cost of a small reception for the friends and family of the recipients will be met from the existing Mayor's budget. There are no additional financial implications of conferring the "Freedom of the Borough" of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham on the individuals.

Alex Pygram, Head of Finance, 09/05/2025

Legal Implications

Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a Council by resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members at a meeting of the Council, specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, to admit 'persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the borough' as "honorary freeman", "honorary aldermen", "honorary freewoman" and "honorary alderwoman".

Grant Deg, Director for Legal Services, 09/05/2025

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

1. The conferring of the title Freedom of the Borough is the highest civic distinction that can be bestowed upon individuals or collective bodies in recognition of outstanding service or particular civic association. The overriding principle is that these awards should be made on merit. Merit for awards is defined as:
 - Achievement
 - Exceptional Service
2. The Council supports the request that the Freedom of the Borough to be granted to The Coldstream Guards. As part of the honour, discussions are ongoing with the regiment regarding details for a Freedom Parade to be held in the very near future.

REASONS FOR DECISION

3. The reasons for the awards are attached as Appendix 1.
4. Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009) allows the Council to confer the titles "honorary freeman", "honorary aldermen", "honorary freewoman" and "honorary alderwoman" on an individual where appropriate.

5. The Council may confer the title of honorary aldermen or honorary alderwomen on persons who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services to the council as past members of that council, but who are not currently serving on the council.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – The Coldstream Guards – a Regiment of the British Army – Statement of Support and Reasons for the Award

Appendix 1 – The Coldstream Guards – a Regiment of the British Army (Statement of Support and Reasons for the Award)

The following statement is provided in support of the members of The Coldstream Guards – a Regiment of the British Army being nominated for a Freedom of the Borough award by Hammersmith & Fulham Council.

- 1.1 The Coldstream Guards is the oldest continuously serving regiment in the British Army. Part of the Household Division, the Coldstream Guards are well recognised for their role in the highest profile state ceremonial occasions but are an Infantry unit first and foremost.
- 1.2 Number 17 Company, Coldstream Guards, (Army Reserve) are based in Hammersmith, with soldiers training in their spare time for operational service within the British Army. Reservists from Number 17 Company have deployed on operations around the world, with troops currently supporting operations in Estonia and Cyprus, as well as supporting high profile events including the King's Coronation and the King's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour).
- 1.3 The Coldstream Guards is the oldest, continuously serving, regular Regiment in the British Army, with a long and distinguished history both at home and abroad in war and peace. The Regiment has consistently provided formations on deployments around the world and fought in the majority of the major conflicts in which the British Army has been engaged, distinguishing itself on numerous occasions. The Coldstream Guards have been awarded 113 Battle Honours to date, from Tangier 1680 to the Gulf 1991. 43 of these are borne on the Colours of the Regiment. Thirteen members of the Regiment have been awarded the Victoria Cross. These were awarded during The Crimean War, WWI and WWII.
- 1.4 Number 17 Company, the Reservist element of the Coldstream Guards, have been based in Hammersmith since their inception as part of the London Guards in May 2018, continuing the proud heritage of having an Infantry Army Reserve unit based in Hammersmith since 2018. In a short period of time, they have contributed consistently to state ceremonial and operational duties with their Regular counterparts. These include supporting the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and deployments to Kenya, Estonia, and Cyprus. Within the Borough, they have paraded each Remembrance Sunday at Shepherds Bush memorial and have supported engagement with the public at several events including establishing the Armed Forces Day event in St. Paul's Gardens in partnership with the Council. Number 17 Company and the Mayor also started the annual Hammersmith & Fulham Mayor's Coldstream Guards Awards for local schools to recognise the contribution of pupils and providing events for their benefit.