

Licensing Sub-Committee of the Regulatory Committee

1.00pm, Monday, 6 February 2023

Proposed Parades and Processions: March 2023

Item number	
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	City Centre (11)
Council Commitments	N/A

Executive Summary

The City of Edinburgh Council has been notified of several parades which are proposed to take place in March 2023.

The Council has limited powers in respect of parades. It can take no action and the parade would proceed as the organisers intend. Alternatively, it has the power to attach conditions or, under limited circumstances, to ban the parade. The Committee needs to decide whether to exercise any of these options.

In January 2018 the Regulatory Committee decided to continue the practice that all marches involving the High Street must be submitted for Committee consideration.

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Proposed Parades and Processions: March 2023

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee makes an order in respect of the proposed parades, imposing conditions attached at Appendix 2.

2. Background

- 2.1 Under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, anyone organising a parade or procession in Scotland must notify the appropriate local authority and the police at least 28 days prior to the date of the event.
- 2.2 The City of Edinburgh Council has been notified of intent to hold the following parades in the city (further details in Appendix 1).
- 2.3 In respect of the following parades the organisers of each parade intend to use the High Street.

	Event name	Event date
a	International Women's Day	8 March 2023
b	Royal Regiment of Scotland Rally	26 March 2023

- 2.4 All parades will go ahead unless the Council decides to make use of its statutory powers. The criteria for assessing whether it is proportionate to use these powers are set out at the link below. No concerns or objections have been raised by any Council team or by the Police with respect to these parades.
- 2.5 The Council has limited powers available regarding the control of such parades. These powers should only normally be exercised to prevent public disorder, risk to public safety, damage to property or excessive disruption to the life of the community. [Download the Scottish Government Guidance to local authorities on marches and parades.](#)

3. Main report

- 3.1 Notification forms relevant to the proposed parades are attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The recommended conditions (Appendix 2) are sufficient to mitigate any possible disruption to the community.
- 3.3 Representatives of the organisations will be invited to address the Committee regarding the proposed parades.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 That the Council discharges its statutory duties in respect of these notifications.
- 4.2 That any parade is facilitated wherever possible and is managed in a way that minimises potential disruption to the life of the community.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 None arising directly from this report.
- 5.2 Council resources may need to be deployed on the day, in particular with respect to any road closures.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 Should the Committee decide to restrict or prohibit the procession, the persons proposing to hold the procession may appeal against that decision to the Sheriff Court within 14 days of written reasons being received by them.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 In coming to a decision, the Committee will have to consider the rights of the procession organisers to stage their procession, and the Council's duty to foster good relations and ensure the protection of public order and safety. These must be discharged against the relevant statutory duties.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 Not applicable.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Statutory consultation has taken place regarding the parades.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 Scottish Government guidance - [Review of parades and marches in Scotland \(2006\)](#)

11. Appendices

- 11.1 Appendix 1: Notification forms for the following events:

	Event name	Event date
a	International Women's Day	8 March 2023
b	Royal Regiment of Scotland Rally	26 March 2023

- 11.2 Appendix 2: Proposed conditions.