

Licensing Sub-Committee of the Regulatory Committee

9.30am, Monday, 14 August 2023

Proposed Parade: September 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 a parade which is proposed to take place in September 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 Parade: September 2023

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee makes an order in respect of the proposed parade, attaching standard conditions (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 events in the city (further details in Appendix 1):

	Name	Date
a	March for Scottish Independence and EU Membership	2 September 2023

- 2.3 It is proposed that the parade will take place and use the High Street.
- 2.4 The Council has limited powers available regarding the control of 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 The notification form relevant to the proposed parade is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The Committee considered a previous notification about this event on 13 June 2023. On that date the Committee made an order attaching standard conditions. The event organisers have subsequently notified the Council that an increased number of participants are now expected to attend, with the notified number now 10,000 people (Appendix 1).

- 3.3 Officers recommend that the standard conditions (Appendix 2) remain sufficient to mitigate any possible disruption to the community.
- 3.4 Representatives of the organisation 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 this notification.
- 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 any 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 form

	Name	Date
a	March for Scottish Independence and EU Membership	2 September 2023

11.2 Appendix 2: Proposed conditions.