

**From:** Foi Enquiries  
**Sent:** 20 June 2019 15:33  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FOI-19-0724 - Armed Forces  
**Attachments:** V3 - Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your information request of 23 May 2019. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested. Our response is now detailed below.

**I would be grateful if you could provide information on the following:**

**1. Does the council allow promotional and recruitment activities by the armed forces in public spaces/events?**

Yes, Roadworks Coordination approve all occupations on both St Nicholas St and Castlegate. We were also advised by our City Events Team that attendance at City of Aberdeen Highland Games and Armed Forces Day are in line with national celebrations.

**2. If yes to 1., does the council allow weapons and military vehicles to be part of these activities?**

Yes, decommissioned weapons from history and heritage collections are used for display purposes and restored/museum owned military vehicles are used in the Armed Forces Day parade.

**3. If yes to 1., what is the procedure for the armed forces to undertake these activities?**

Members of the Armed Forces recruitment/event teams seek internal support for their annual proposed programme of activities. They then request permission/approval from the relevant Ministry of Defence departments or officials to proceed with activities. The MOD requires internal documentation to be completed and approved before they can approach external partners requesting permission to participate at events/undertake recruitment activities.

The armed forces would then make an application to Street Occupations and/or enquiries to City Events Team to request permission to participate/ attend detailing purpose, planned activity, equipment being used, space requirements etc.

**4. What is the council's policy on children (under 18 years old) handling military weapons in public spaces/events?**

If military weapons are to be displayed, they need to be decommissioned, and managed appropriately by representatives from the Armed Forces who are present at the event/activity.

**5. What policies inform the council's position on this, in relation to event licensing, safeguarding, the Armed Forces Covenant etc.**

Each event is scrutinised by the local authority's Licensing Committee in consultation with emergency service/external partners prior to the appropriate Procession or Public Entertainment License being granted.

ACC are aware that members of the Armed Forces recruitment/event teams seek internal support for their annual proposed programme of activities. Only when the relevant permission/approval has been received from Ministry of Defence departments or officials to proceed with activities, ACC will then engage with requests/queries.

**INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANDLING OF YOUR REQUEST**

ACC handled your request for information in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act

2002. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information about your rights under FOISA.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,



**Salomeh Kheyri Rad** | Access to Information Officer

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