
**DECISION MADE IN RELATION TO THE CARRICKFERGUS DEFENDERS
FLUTE BAND AND WOODBURN BROWNING CLUB PARADES NOTIFIED
TO TAKE PLACE IN CARRICKFERGUS ON SATURDAY 8th AUGUST 2020**

1. The following is the decision of the Parades Commission in relation to the Carrickfergus Defenders Flute Band and Woodburn Browning Club parades notified to take place on Saturday 8th August 2020.
2. Section 8 (1) of the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, provides that:

“The Commission may issue a determination in respect of a proposed public procession imposing on the persons organising or taking part in it such conditions as the Commission considers necessary.”
3. The Commission has noted the details provided on the 11/1 forms submitted on 24th July 2020 concerning the Carrickfergus Defenders Flute Band and Woodburn Browning Club parades notified for Saturday 8th August 2020.
4. The Commission has given careful consideration as to whether to exercise its power under Section 8. It has done so within the relevant legal and statutory framework, constituted in the main by the 1998 Act, the various instruments made thereunder (in particular the “Guidelines” and the Human Rights Act 1998).
5. These 2 parades are notified by the same organiser along the same route through the centre of Carrickfergus on the morning of Saturday 8th August, which is the date of the traditional commemoration by the Apprentice Boys of Derry of the Relief of Londonderry. The main demonstration by the Apprentice Boys has been cancelled this year.
6. Each of the 2 parades in Carrickfergus is notified from 10.15am to 12.30pm, with 25 participants, and no supporters. The parades commence at Woodburn Orange Hall, pause at the War Memorial for a ‘short wreath laying’ and finish at Carrickfergus Glasgow Rangers Supporters Club.

7. The organiser has provided additional information that he has been *'closely following the advice and guidance from the Northern Ireland Executive and am of the firm opinion that all social distancing guidelines can be safely adhered to.'* He has also stated that he *'has been in regular contact with the PSNI in Carrickfergus who have been advising and guiding and there are no problems from them regarding these applications.'*
8. The organiser has stated that he *'will be communicating with the community in the town through our social media and through the community associations and groups in the town to ensure people do not follow the parade and that they watch and enjoy it from the comfort of their own homes and gardens. We will also have marshals deployed on the day to reinforce this message.'*
9. The organiser has referenced the success of the parades in Carrickfergus on the Twelfth when two local flute bands parading the same route in groups of less than 30, ensuring *'social distancing etc. was observed and it was a massive success and a brilliant day for the town.'*
10. The Commission has received representation from an elected representative, who is an MLA in support of the parade, stating that *'this is a traditional route in a majority Unionist town which would not receive any objections ordinarily. The groups have also committed to working with the community to ensure people do not follow the parade and they watch from their own homes and gardens. There will also be marshals in place on the day to support this message.'* The representative states also that *'both groups will be less than 30 and will be adhering to all government guidelines around social distancing.'*
11. The Commission has received no objections to the forthcoming parades, at this stage. The Commission, however, alerts the organiser to the potential for parades which intend to gather more than 30 people at the same location to generate community objections due to the potential to cause disruption to the community

life to those in the locality of the processions. Organisers must be aware of this potential.

12. The Commission has considered all relevant factors regarding these parades.
13. The Commission has considered the need to issue determinations as outlined at paragraph 2 above against the factors outlined in its statutory Guidelines, including the potential disruption to community life.
14. The Commission has decided that the imposition of conditions on these parades is not necessary nor proportionate, at this time, because of the factors set out above.
15. Further to this decision the Commission advises the organiser consult with the relevant authorities regarding the requirement to perform a risk assessment of their parade/parades, in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Public Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions (No 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020, part of which is reproduced below:

5. Restrictions on gatherings

5(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (5) a person shall not participate in an indoor or outdoor gathering which consists of more than 30 persons.

(3) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a gathering which is organised or operated for cultural, entertainment, recreational, outdoor sports, social, community, educational, work, legal, religious or political purposes, and which fulfils the conditions in paragraph (4).

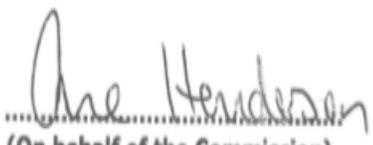
(4) The conditions referred to in paragraph (3) are that the person responsible for organising or operating the gathering –

(a) has carried out a risk assessment which meets the requirements of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (b), whether or not that person is subject to those Regulations; and

(b) takes all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of the coronavirus, including implementing the preventive and protective measures identified in the risk assessment undertaken in accordance with sub-paragraph (a) and complying with any relevant guidance issued by a Northern Ireland Department.

The Commission further advises that the requirement to perform such a risk assessment, and to implement its preventive and protective measures, in accordance with the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (b) may be relevant to multiple parades of 30 persons moving off in quick succession of each other, as is the situation with these parades. Responsibility for compliance with all Regulations rests with the organiser and the participants of the parade.

16. The Commission reiterates the responsibilities incumbent on all parade organisers regarding public health considerations, at this time.
17. A copy of this decision has been provided to the PSNI.

Signed: 
(On behalf of the Commission)

Date: 30th July 2020