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**DECISION MADE IN RELATION TO THE THREE APPRENTICE BOYS OF DERRY  
BROWNING CLUB DUNDONALD BRANCH PARADES ON SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2020**

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1. The following is the decision of the Parades Commission in relation to the Apprentice Boys of Derry Browning Club Dundonald Branch parades notified to take place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 three 11/1 forms submitted on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020 concerning the three Apprentice Boys of Derry Browning Club Dundonald Branch parades notified for Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> 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. The 3 parades by this organiser along the same route through Dundonald on the afternoon of 8<sup>th</sup> August are notified for 30 participants each, with no supporters, and include the band, Pride of the Hill Carnmoney Flute Band.
6. The 3 parades are spaced to commence 1 minute apart from their assembly points at Davarr Avenue, finishing at 2.30pm at the Orange Hall on the Comber Road.
7. The organiser has provided additional information that their tradition on the ‘2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of August the Apprentice Boys of Derry go straight to Londonderry to parade however under direction from General Committee of the ABOD local parades only are to be encouraged this year’ and that ‘due to covid 19 restrictions we have decided to lodge three separate applications comprising of no more than 30 people in each setting off at 1 minute intervals to maintain social distancing.’
8. The organiser has also stated that ‘the route being taken is a Thank you to the people of Dundonald who donated to our appeal to help Limetree nursing home during the recent coronavirus epidemic.’

9. Regarding communication with the local community, the organiser has confirmed that *'we are also very active on social media and will be instructing supporters and members of the public NOT to follow the parade around the route.'*
10. The organiser has confirmed that only the officers of the Apprentice Boys' club are attending the Cenotaph (Moat Park) for the notified '5 minute break for reflection', and also that he has contacted a Belfast city councillor regarding a risk assessment for the parades.
11. The organiser has stated that the parades are fully supported by the local community in Dundonald.
12. 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.
13. The Commission has considered all relevant factors regarding these parades.
14. 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.
15. The Commission has decided that the imposition of conditions upon these parades at this time, is not appropriate, because of the factors set out above. However, it brings to the organiser's attention that it does not expect to receive multiple parade notifications for the same event.
16. 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 –*

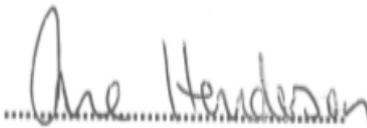
*(a) has carried out a risk assessment which meets the requirements of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (b), whether or not that person is subject to those Regulations; and*

*(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.

17. The Commission reiterates the responsibilities incumbent on all parade organisers regarding public health considerations, at this time.

A copy of this decision has been provided to the PSNI.

Signed:   
(On behalf of the Commission)

**Date: 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020**