
**DECISION MADE IN RELATION TO THE TWO PARADES ORGANISED BY FREEMAN
MEMORIAL FLUTE BAND TO TAKE PLACE ON FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2020 IN
COLERAINE**

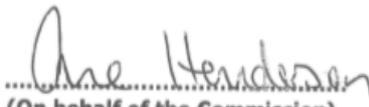
1. The following is the decision of the Parades Commission in relation to the two Freeman Memorial Flute Band parades notified to take place on Friday 18th September 2020.
2. Section 8 (1) of the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, provides that:

"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 two 11/1 forms submitted on 10th August 2020 concerning the Freeman Memorial Flute Band parades notified for Friday 18th September 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 organiser has submitted two notifications for 30 participants each with a 2 minute gap between each parade. The combined total is 60 participants.
6. The notified route which is largely through the town centre is '*Railway Place car park, Railway Road, Kingsgate Street, Long Commons, Newmarket Street, New Row, The Diamond, Bridge Street, Old Bridge, Slip Road, Killowen Street, Waterside, Old Bridge, Bridge Street, Kingsgate Street onto Brook Street, Union Street, Railway Road, Ballycastle Road, Coleraine Showgrounds.*'
7. The parades are planned for Friday evening, 18th September 2020 from 8.00pm to 9.32pm. The purpose is stated as '*One lap of hometown as had to postpone annual parade in April due to Covid. Band will be suitably socially distance as per guidelines.*'
8. The Commission has informed the organiser that responsibility for compliance with current Covid Regulations is a matter for the organiser and the relevant health and enforcement authorities. The Commission notes that the organiser has stated '*As it pertains to September 18th parade, we intend to follow the same protocols which were so successfully implemented during our first parade. We have walked our*

proposed route, carefully measuring the widths of the streets we propose to walk on. The narrowest street we propose to walk is 5.5m wide. This would, therefore, allow us to walk comfortably with the 2m of distance between each member as recommended by the current NI Executive COVID 19 advice for whom we show the utmost respect and deference.

As a community group, the safety of our members is of the utmost importance to us and at no point would we be willing to compromise that safety.'

9. The Commission has considered the potential disruption to community life arising from the parade.
10. The Commission has not received any representation about the proposed parade, and has therefore no evidence nor information regarding support for the parade, nor opposition to it.
11. The Commission has considered the need to issue a determination as outlined at paragraph 2 above against the factors outlined in its statutory guidelines, including the potential disruption to community life.
12. The Commission has decided that the imposition of conditions upon this parade at this time, is not appropriate.
13. As the public health risks of the parade are the responsibility of the organiser, the Commission has advised the organiser to consult with all relevant authorities regarding such public health risks.
14. The proposed parade has been brought to the attention of the Minister of Health, the Chief Constable of the PSNI, the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Scientific Advisor.
15. This decision by the Commission does not confer approval of the proposed parade.

Signed: 
(On behalf of the Commission)

Date: 14th September 2020