

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
General Purposes Committee of Aldermen	5/7/22
<b>Subject:</b> Redesignation of the London Regiment to the 1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion London Guards	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	<b>7.b.</b>
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Mr. Remembrancer	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> James Edwards, Remembrancer's Officer	

### Summary

This report notes the redesignation of the London Regiment as the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion London Guards and recommends its continued treatment as a Privileged Corps of the City of London.

### Recommendation

The Committee is invited to continue to recognise 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion London Guards, the redesignated London Regiment, as a Privileged Corps of the City of London.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The status of a Privileged Corps is a distinction which may be conferred on military units by the Corporation, including by the Court of Aldermen, to mark a particular affinity and association with the City of London. The privilege is the modern expression of an ancient immunity from military impressment, asserted by the citizens of London at least since the 14th century. It recognised those military bodies with London origins considered to have been assembled in a manner respectful of this immunity.
2. By tradition this meant that the privilege was confined to regiments which could be shown to have been descended from the "trained bands" of the City (an important local militia in the 16th and 17th Centuries under the control of the civic authorities), or from regiments recruited from within the City with the assent of the Lord Mayor in the period following the Restoration. The status was originally conferred exclusively on Army regiments, which enjoy the

distinction of marching through the City, on such days as may be agreed between them and the Lord Mayor, with “drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed”. (The ‘privileged’ mode of marching is symbolic of the old method of recruitment “by beat of drum.”)

3. In more recent years the privilege has been extended to regiments and corps established since the Restoration which have close associations with the City. The current list of Privileged Corps is noted in the annex to this report.

### **The London Regiment and its Redesignation to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion London Guards**

4. The London Regiment, which traced its descent from an antecedent regiment formed in 1908, was created in 1993 and was granted privileged status by the Court of Aldermen in 1995. It incorporated companies of the London Scottish, The Princess of Wales’s Royal Regiment, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, and the London Irish Rifles, with the Princess of Wales’s Royal Regiment and The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers already being privileged regiments in their own right. It was
5. As part of the Integrated Review and Future Soldier programme, the London Regiment has been redesignated the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion London Guards, effective 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022.
6. While the redesignation will see the four Companies within the Regiment adopt the name, cap badge and dress of their new affiliated Regular Regiments in the Scots, Irish, Coldstream and Grenadier Guards, the latter two of which are also privileged, the regimental structure will remain in place. The Army has been clear that this move is a redesignation, and not a disbandment.
7. Previous Army restructures have seen the London Regiment transfer from the Queen’s Division to the Guards Division, retaining its name and multi-badge structure, while individual companies have been transferred from one regiment to another without altering the parent Regiment’s status as a Privileged Regiment of the City of London. For example, two companies of the Royal Green Jackets formed part of the Regiment between 1998 and 2004, while a Rifles company was transferred to the Regiment in 2017.

### **Conclusion**

8. The redesignation of the London Regiment as the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion London Guards preserves the existing regimental structure while creating new affiliations between the reserve and regular forces. The redesignation does not impact on the existing privileged status of the corps.

### **Recommendation**

9. The Committee is invited to endorse the recommendation as set out at the beginning of this report and to commend it to the Court of Aldermen.

**James Edwards**

Office of the City Remembrancer  
020 7332 1202  
[james.edwards@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:james.edwards@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

## **Annex One**

### **List of the Privileged Regiments**

- The Royal Marines
- Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment
- The Grenadier Guards
- The Honourable Artillery Company
- The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers
- The Coldstream Guards
- The Household Cavalry, comprising the Blues and Royals and the Life Guards
- The London Regiment
- 101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal & Search)
- 71 (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment
- 256 (City of London) Field Hospital

### *Privileged Corps*

- 600 (City of London) Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force
- H.M.S. President
- The Intelligence Corps (conferred through 3 Military Intelligence Battalion)
- The First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (Princess Royal's Volunteer Corps)