

Royal Charter - Have Your Say

Overview

GOVERNING OUR LEGION - HAVE YOUR SAY

Thank you for taking the time to take part in this consultation. It is a vital part of a process the Board of Trustees are undertaking to explore how to best govern and lead our Charity for the future.

We are seeking input from the Charity Commission, have taken advice from lawyers highly experienced in charity governance, and we are now consulting internally across the Board, the Membership Council and with you, the Membership.

The outcome of all this work will be a Motion to Conference 2019 once our consultations and discussions are complete, at which point you will get to vote on our recommended changes.

[You can view the existing Royal Charter at:](#)

www.britishlegion.org.uk/membership

Please encourage as many Members as possible to take part either via this online survey or by printing it out and sending it to:

*Have your Say
Membership Team
Haig House
199 Borough High Street
SE1 1AA*

If you have any questions, you can email RoyalCharter@britishlegion.org.uk, or phone the Membership Team on 0203 207 2269.

Thank you again for taking the time to help us build a stronger Legion.

Closing date for submissions is Wednesday, 31st October at 5pm.

SECTION 1 - The structure of the Legion's governing documents

Our legal advisors are suggesting that we create a two part Royal Charter, one part containing our Articles, the other our Rules. The Membership Handbook would then contain the guidance on how we manage and run the Legion day to day.

1. Does this proposal make sense to you? If not, why not?

Please write in the box below

2. Are there any Regulations currently in the Membership Handbook which should be in the Articles or Rules?

Please write in the box below

SECTION 2 - The Purposes of the Legion

We are looking to redefine our definition of a beneficiary to reflect the people we now need to support. Having not been changed in years, our definition needs some updating to be fit for the future.

Please see Appendices 1 and 2 for current definitions.

3. What criteria should we use to define an RBL beneficiary?

Please write in the box below

4. Should we extend our Objects from “commemoration of those who have died whilst on active service” to also include “those who died whilst in service”, something we already do at the National Memorial Arboretum where the Armed Forces Memorial commemorates all those who died on active service since World War 2?

Please write in the box below

5. Are there any other changes to our Remembrance activities that you would like to see?

Please write in the box below

SECTION 3 - The Legion's Powers

Our Powers give us the authority in Law to carry out an activity. We believe that these Powers could be amended to be more tightly defined and to remove Powers we will not want to exercise in the future.

Please see Appendix 3 for a full list of current Legion powers. We have given all powers listed in the appendix a letter. For ease, please use these letters to note any powers you would like to refer to in your answers.

6. Which Powers do you think we could remove?

Please write in the box below

7. Are there any Powers you think we should consider adding?

Please write in the box below

SECTION 4 - The Elections

The duties and responsibilities expected of those standing as Trustees and Chairs of charities are changing and being expanded all the time - just think of the scandals that have enveloped Oxfam and Kids Company in recent months. The advice we are being given is that our current systems are not robust enough to ensure that we always have the right skills sets at our disposal. This Autumn's elections will go ahead under the current system but we want to explore changing the process for the future.

8. How could we improve the election process for Trustees?

Please write in the box below



9. How could we improve the election process for Membership Council?

Please write in the box below

10. How could we improve the election process for the National Officers?

Please write in the box below

SECTION 5 - Annual Conference

Finally, we see numbers attending Annual Conference fall year on year. Fewer voting delegates attending runs the risk of Conference and its decisions not being truly representative of the whole Legion, just those who can attend Conference.

11. What changes would you like to see to Annual Conference?

Please write in the box below

12. Should we explore other ways of voting for those who cannot attend Conference eg postal or proxy voting?

Please write in the box below

SECTION 6 - Anything else?

Thank you for your time and input so far. If there anything else you would like to add in relation to our Charter consultation please answer the next question.

13. Finally, is there anything else you would like to add in relation to our Charter consultation process?

Please write in the box below