

Resolutions Update

Annual Conference 2026

Update on the progress against Motions carried
and responses by the Board of Trustees



The Board of Trustees wish to update the Royal British Legion formations and its members of the actions that have been taken on the Motions carried at Annual Conference held on Saturday 9 May 2026.

Patron: His Majesty The King

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Motion 2

Proposer	Mawdesley Branch
Motion	The Mawdesley RBL Branch requests that the Board of Trustees canvas the Prime Minister and HM Government to make good on a pre-election pledge to support Veterans, and their dependents, who during the nuclear testing programme during the 1950's were exposed to high levels of nuclear radiation, and have suffered health problems because of this.
Vote Result	For - 205 (67.21 %) Against - 100 (32.79%)
Vote Outcome	Carried
Recommendation to the Board of Trustees	This Motion is upheld by the Board of Trustees: RBL's Campaigns, Policy and Research (CPR) team regularly advocate for Nuclear Test Veterans in their work with the Ministry of Defence and Office for Veteran's Affairs. The CPR Directors have engaged with members of the Mawdesley Branch to keep them up to date on this activity. We shared the current RBL policy position on nuclear test veterans, outlining RBL's background, involvement and analysis of existing research. Our position can be summarised as follows: 'RBL is sympathetic to the concerns of British Nuclear Test Veterans and their families, and calls on government to prioritise and accelerate their efforts in ensuring that individuals who have served in the Armed Forces are able to access their full medical records promptly, and support further scientific research into the impact of nuclear testing on those who served and their families.' This policy position guides our engagement with ministers, officials and the media. Whenever opportunities arise to meet with Ministry of Defence, Office for Veterans' Affairs officials or Ministers, we emphasise the urgency of the issue for both veterans and family members who believe their health has been affected by test exposure. Our current priorities are improving access to records for veterans and immediate family members, and advocating for further research to help build large scale evidence. At present, scientific findings on causal links between nuclear tests and illnesses among veterans or their children remain inconclusive and often conflicting. We will continue reviewing emerging insights from the Merlin database and associated studies. Until a causal link is established, the Government are unlikely to establish a bespoke compensation scheme. This is why we are focusing on uncovering more evidence.

	The War Pensions Scheme currently provides no fault compensation for conditions causally linked to service before 2005. While Mawdsley Branch requests that the Board approach the Prime Minister and Government to honour a pre-election pledge to support veterans, we are not aware of any formal government commitment on additional support or bespoke compensation. We note that whilst the 2019 Labour Party manifesto included the following pledge: 'We will pay a lump sum of £50,000 to each surviving British nuclear test veteran to support them and their families with the health conditions they have suffered as a result of exposure to radiation' there was no such pledge included in this Labour government's manifesto. We are already advocating to support the Nuclear Test Veterans and their families. CPR already has an established and regularly reviewed policy position on nuclear test veterans, which is driving our ongoing influencing work with the Office for Veterans Affairs and the Ministry of Defence. In our welcome and congratulatory letters sent in July to the new Prime Minister, Andy Burnham, and the Defence Secretary, Wes Streeting, we highlighted the issue of Nuclear Test Veterans in both communications, demonstrating the Legion's commitment to this matter.
Follow up actions owned by	Hannah Pearce and Angela Kitching, Directors: Campaigns, Policy & Research
Action Update	This action remains open.
Motion 3	
Proposer	Plympton & District Branch
Motion	This conference requests that the membership handbook is updated to reflect the need for all County, Branch officers and committee members complete the necessary training which is considered essential to ensure that they understand the workings of a branch and how do manage their role within the branch. The MSI should be amended to contain a signed declaration to that effect.
Vote Result	For - 171 (57.19 %) Against - 128 (42.81%)
Vote Outcome	Carried

Recommendation to the Board of Trustees	This Motion is upheld by the Board of Trustees: A report was approved at Membership Council in April prior to Conference relating to mandatory training and supported a phased approach to its implementation. If the Board concurs with the MC's decision and the AC26 vote, the L&D team are ready to progress with the phased approach, with Jane Cosgrove as Chair of the Training Working Group (TWG), and with the support of CCs and CTOs in the Counties. The element relating to MSI changes will sit with staff teams as part of the wider MSI review. The MSI form contents and format are currently being reviewed to ensure the MSI is a simple, effective form which captures details of the officers holding branch and county positions, along with the safeguarding self-declaration. Any additional elements which may be included on the MSI must be considered without the form including too much detail which inevitably reduces compliance returns.
Follow up actions owned by	Membership Policy & Compliance Team, Learning & Development Team and Jane Cosgrove, Training Working Group Chair.
Action Update	This action remains open.
Motion 4	
Proposer	Workshop Branch
Motion	This conference asks the Royal British Legion to introduce a National Award for individuals who are not members of the RBL family, to recognise exceptional work that actively supports the work of the legion.
Vote Result	For - 249 (81.64 %) Against - 56 (18.36%)
Vote Outcome	Carried
Recommendation to the Board of Trustees	This Motion is upheld by the Board of Trustees: The National Chair and Director General are supportive of the award and exploring appropriate options for recognising individuals who are not members of the RBL family supported by the Private Office.
Follow up actions owned by	Lynda Atkins, National Chair and Mark Atkinson, Director General.

Action Update	This action remains open.
Motion 5	
Proposer	Guiseley Branch and Skegness Branch
Motion	This Conference requests that the Royal British Legion amend the Ceremonial Handbook and associated policy to require all Standard Bearers to undertake a mandatory Standard Bearer training session annually.
Vote Result	For - 173 (57.10%) Against - 130 (42.90%)
Vote Outcome	Carried
Recommendation to the Board of Trustees	This Motion is upheld by the Board of Trustees: The Ceremonial Working Group as a sub-group of the Membership Council will be responsible for progressing this piece of work in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders throughout the process. A detailed implementation plan will be developed to determine how the training will be delivered, monitored and recorded, with particular consideration given to the provision of online training, where appropriate, for both UK and Overseas branches where attendance at in-person training may not be practical due to logistical constraints.
Follow up actions owned by	Dusty Millar, Ceremonial Working Group Chair.
Action Update	This action remains open.
Motion 6	
Proposer	Torquay Branch
Motion	This Conference proposes that the Legion undertakes a review of its procurement policy to explore opportunities for sourcing its merchandise within the UK or Commonwealth.
Vote Result	For - 217 (71.62 %) Against - 86 (28.38%)
Vote Outcome	Carried

Recommendation to the Board of Trustees	This Motion is upheld by the Board of Trustees: The BoT agreed to uphold the motion and undertake a thorough review of our sourcing of merchandise from overseas. It was agreed that this was an important piece of work and had to be done carefully over the long-term considering the following factors: • The primary purpose of sourcing materials from overseas was to provide as much value as possible to our beneficiary services, hence the need to take a global approach. If it was reasonable to procure more locally or within the Commonwealth without significantly increasing our costs, then we should do so. • We must honour any contractual obligations that we have already agreed – these will expire in 2028 which leaves us free to explore new partners in the future years. • Though we will encourage production globally, where we can find compelling value, it was felt that we need to develop an agreed list of countries where we would deliberately avoid sourcing materials in the future. • Given the long-term nature of this review, we will look to transition to a new global sourcing model in the years that we complete our existing financial commitments. This will also allow the team the time to find the best possible partners to continue to provide the best value for RBL and its beneficiaries. An update on the review will be provided at Annual Conference 2027.
Follow up actions owned by	Gary Ryan, Executive Director: Marketing, Fundraising and Remembrance.
Action Update	This action remains open.

End.