

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	April	2023		31	March	2024

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Home Service Military Heritage Society

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

NIC106080

Charity's principal address

c/o Decorum NI

26 Balloo Avenue, Bangor,

Co Down Northern Ireland

Postcode

BT19 7QT

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name

Office (if any)

Mr Charles Bennett

Chairman

Mr Norman McElhinny

Vice Chairman

Mr Barry Armstrong

Secretary

Mr Simon Jenkins

Treasurer

Mr David Crabbe

Mrs Deirdre Speer Whyte

Section B

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	The Charity is constituted as a Society with a Management Committee (The Charity Trustees)
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Committee Members are elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- Trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Members of the Management Committee (the Charity Trustees) are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with our governing document. The Management Committee has the power to co-opt additional members to fill any casual vacancy that may arise until the next Annual General Meeting is held.

The Society has insurance in place to mitigate risks such as damage to property owned by the Society, as well as public and property liability insurance.

The Society works with the Regimental Association of The Ulster Defence Regiment and Decorum NI.

The Society's assets are available to the Regimental Association and other appropriate organisations for various events as part of its objective to advance education about the military history, culture and works of The Ulster Defence Regiment and the Royal Irish Regiment.

Decorum NI, a registered charity, facilitates the storage of Society assets and provides a postal address for the Society.

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objectives of the charity set out in its governing document

The Society's objects are to advance education about the military history, culture, and heritage of the works of The Ulster Defence Regiment and the Royal Irish Regiment; and to carry out research by collecting and recording artefacts and information, and in particular forming an archive of the works of The Ulster Defence Regiment and the Royal Irish Regiment; to educate the general public by promoting awareness of, and research into, the military history, photography, culture, and heritage of the Ulster Defence Regiment and the Royal Irish Regiment.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Society has developed a small archive of material that is available for talks and presentations to inform and educate organisations and groups about the role and work of The Ulster Defence Regiment and the Royal Irish Regiment in Northern Ireland. This material gives the Society the capacity to produce video and other material about service in the Regiments some of which focuses on the stories of individuals. We will continue to develop published material, to be made available to the public to improve their knowledge of The Ulster Defence Regiment and its place in the military history of the Irish Regiments in the British Army.

The Society interviews and records the stories of those who served in the Regiments as part of the development of an archive of material to be used in the production of presentational material and for future research purposes.

The Society makes its assets available to like-minded organisations where the use is consistent with the objectives of the Society.

The Management Committee (The Charity Trustees) have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grant making;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Society's activities in 2023/24 have concentrated on researching material and drafting text for a publication on The Ulster Defence Regiment. It is proposed to make this booklet available to the wider public, many of whom would have very little, or no, knowledge of the Regiment and its impact on communities.

The aim of the booklet is to explain the background to why the Regiment was formed, its organisation, role and structures. How it evolved and became an important and increasing part of the military support to the police in Northern Ireland.

As part of the development of this project, research has been carried out into material held in the Royal Irish Regiment Museum archives, which includes photographs and other material, not previously published.

Initial discussions have taken place with the new Regimental Museum to look at opportunities to make material produced by the Society available to the public through the museum outlets. While final agreement will depend on several factors, the response to date has been positive.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Society is satisfied that its current financial reserves continue to meet its needs, although it is aware of the need to keep this under review, as the Society does not hold large reserves of funds.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The charity's main source of funds is through donations and membership subscriptions from members. The level of income raised in this way has enabled the Society to maintain its total funds at a level consistent with its needs throughout the reporting year. It is expected that the opportunities for future events will continue to remain limited for the foreseeable future. However, the Society will continue to seek out and support events and activities that enable it to meet its objectives. The Management Committee will continue to monitor this situation and look for other fund-raising opportunities.

The Society has no debtors or creditors at this time.

The Society's accounts are independently audited each year and the accounts presented at the Annual General Meeting for approval. Approval for the Society's accounts and report will be sought at a meeting of the Society's Management Committee (The Society's Trustees), before being presented to members at the Annual General Meeting at the end of June.

Section F Other optional information

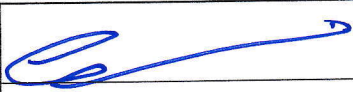
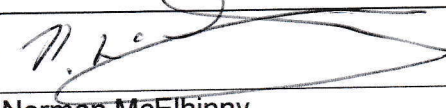
The Society holds much of its archive of media material in commercial storage facilities with access restricted to 2 members of the Management committee. This facility is alarmed and covered by CCTV. The need for secure storage is kept under review to ensure the facilities meet the needs of the Society's activities.

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Charles George Bennett	Norman McElhinny
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairman	Vice-chairman
Date	9 Aug 24	