



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

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

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name **The Royal Ulster Rifles Museum**

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) **NI0109019**

Charity's principal address **28 Bedford Street**

Belfast

Northern Ireland

Postcode **BT2 7FE**

Names of the charity trustees who managed the charity

Trustee name

General Sir RN Wheeler

JA McNeish

R H Bicker

C Champion

DMEI Edsell

G Glass

L Morrow

RAM Mulligan

AN Shooter

J Taylor

AWL Vosper

RJ Walker (Resigned 31 Aug 23)

Office (if any)

President / Chairman

Vice Chairman

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Trust Deed – Declaration of Trust dated 20th May 1982

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

The Charity is constituted as a Trust

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

New Trustees are elected following nomination by the other Trustees

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.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document.

The object of the Royal Ulster Rifles Museum is to hold together the traditions of the Regiment and of perpetuating its deeds by holding the Regimental Collection upon trust for the benefit of the public in terms of heritage and education.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The main achievements during the year were:

Maintaining contact with the public via social media, monitoring requests for family research, questions on personal artefacts and other general queries.

During the reporting year we had 438 visitors, compared to 428 the previous year. There was a significant increase in International Visitors.

Digitisation

The digitisation of archives continued by the curator and volunteers.

Staffing

Staffing remains workable with the curator and two volunteers; this still allows the manning of the museum at three per day.

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 Museum has opened to the general public in their new premises since the 01 Jul 2022. The new layout follows the chronological timeline of the Regiments' history. The new larger location allowed for the establishment of a temporary exhibition room and improved research and shop facilities. Disabled access is now available to all rooms and toilet facilities.

The Museum houses an extensive collection of uniforms, badges, medals and regimental memorabilia covering the history of the Regiment and the campaigns in which it has fought since its formation in 1793 to 1968. The many special exhibits relate particularly to the role of the regiment in the First World War and the Second World War.

Guided tours are provided and the ability to have research carried out of former members is available in accordance with the GDPR and data protection.

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.

The MoD have ceased to fund staff costs of The Royal Ulster Rifles Museum in Waring Street, the Regiment is fortunate to have a small group of dedicated Volunteers who kept the Museum open for three days a week. This also allows the public access to the Regimental heritage for research, particularly by students and family members of the men who served in the Regiment, especially in the First World War, when the Regiment raised 21 Battalions, many of which were from Belfast.

The Trustees of the Museum are very grateful for any donations that would help to keep the Museum open.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The level of reserves allows for the purchase of items deemed significant to Regimental History that would add to the collection.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

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.

During the reporting period, the Museum had a surplus of Income over Expenditure of £1,200 compared to a deficit of £2,390 in the previous financial year. The surplus was mostly due to increased income from donations and research following the re-opening in the new location.

The principal sources of funding were voluntary donations, income derived from research carried out and from shop sales.

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>
Full name(s)	ROGER NEIL WHEELER
Position (e.g. Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIRMAN
Date	29/8/24