

COVID-19 (Corona Virus)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please find below an extract from an email I have received from a very dependable source within RBLs. Although it is disappointing, we must adopt a common-sense approach to public gatherings in the present climate.

Stay safe

Jim Elliot

Good Afternoon All,

As you can imagine there is a lot being worked through just now at Head Office as we prepare plans and statements for the wider organisation. However, I am aware and am also now receiving direct calls from concerned Clubs and members as to how things should proceed at present and what support will be provided in the coming weeks and months. We are not in position to have all the answers at present as the situation is both unprecedented and changing by the day, so, first and foremost, I would ask for your patience and ask you to reassure your branches and members that the team here at Head Office are doing all we can just now to carry on with daily activity and advance plan as much as possible while we are all able to come in to the office.

That said, we are now looking at a new normal and in light of the Government update last night need to step up our ongoing measures to ensure we are not putting ourselves, our members and our beneficiaries at risk.

As per the update at the end of last week it is vital to adhere to the Government and NHS guidelines which are updated regularly online:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

The decision with respect to National Events is as follows:

1. **Anzac Day 25th April** – if anything goes ahead it will be a simple wreath laying ceremony behind closed doors with the minimum of people involved. This will remain under review and is dependant on access to the Scottish National War Memorial.

2. **Silver Poppy Golf 1st May** – this has been cancelled. The Events Department will correspond on this with all Area Secretaries and with those who have submitted entry forms so far. Refunds of any entry fees already paid will be given and cheques returned if not yet cashed.
3. **VE Day 75th** – this will be postponed. The firm date for when it will go ahead is pending the Scottish Government Official update later today/tomorrow. We will keep everyone updated on this.
4. **Annual Conference** – this will be cancelled but every effort will be made to ensure required AGM business can be facilitated remotely. The motions for this year will be covered with the One Member One Vote Process, copies of the Annual Report and Minutes from Conference 2019 are being issued this week to every Branch Secretary and all those currently noted as delegates to come to conference. This will ensure they have all had sight of the documents they would have voted on at conference and written confirmation of the current situation. The draft packs (8 weeks' notice) were due to go out next week anyway so we will continue with that mailing to provide as much information as we can.
5. **Scottish American Service 25th May** – this has been cancelled.
6. **Founders Day 21st June** – this is still under review given it is more than 3 months away. We are prepared to stand down and if we do go ahead attendance will be limited to a small gathering outdoors at the Abbey.
7. **Armed Forces Day Edinburgh** – with the agreement of Edinburgh City Council this has been cancelled.

This leads me to consideration of events and functioning at a local level which I know will be more of a concern for all Areas and Branches. Understandably there is considerable worry across the organisation, but I must stress at this point that everyone should adopt a common sense approach.