

## Op Banner 50 FAQs

### ▪ Who is eligible to apply to attend the event?

Recipients of the General Service Medal (Northern Ireland) and those who served in a civilian service in support of Operation Banner are eligible to apply to attend the event.

Two representatives from families of British Armed Forces and Civilian service personnel killed as a result of operations in Northern Ireland or paramilitary actions in other countries will be eligible and welcome to register their interest in attending the event.

### ▪ How many spaces will be available?

The number of attendees will be announced once the format of the event has been finalised.

### ▪ How will people be selected to attend the event?

Invitations. In the unlikely event that the NMA is unable to accommodate all those that express an interest in attending and are eligible to apply, spaces will be allocated via a ballot system.

### Eligibility:

Details on eligibility and registration process for ex-serving, currently serving, civilian/emergency services and bereaved families can be found below:

### How will eligibility for ex-serving individuals be verified? Will I need to produce proof of service?

To attend, individuals must have been awarded the GSM (NI). Invitations to eligible individuals will be issued via their relevant Corps, Regimental or Service Association.

Associations will issue the invitation link to eligible individuals to register. Individuals will be required to RSVP via the accreditation system by completing their details. Basic details of service will be required upon application to provide an additional level of eligibility only. Details of service will not be shared with any third parties and a full privacy notice will be available for agreement before submission of details via the accreditation site.

All GSM (NI) holders (or civilian equivalent), irrespective of their current membership status, are asked to apply for tickets via their respective Corps, Regimental or Service Association who will send you an invitation directly.

Individual applications that approach the Legion will be asked to contact their Association. Your association will relate to the Capbadge (Army) or Service (RN/RM/RAF) you served with.

Allowances will be made for people requiring a carer. You will be asked to email [commemorative.events@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:commemorative.events@britishlegion.org.uk) during registration if you require a carer.

### **I am currently serving and hold the GSM (NI). Can I attend?**

There are many still serving who hold the GSM (NI) who are therefore eligible to attend. Serving personnel should contact their relevant Corps, Regimental or Service Association to be issued an invite. You do not need to be a member of your Association to be invited to the event.

We are working with the MoD and Associations on the best mechanism to communicate to those currently serving to ensure their attendance

Please note that currently serving personnel wishing to attend the OP BANNER commemorations, have permission to do so in uniform. However, this would not be a duty day, so serving personnel would be required to take a day's leave and fund their own travel if they wished to participate.

Allowances will be made for people requiring a carer. You will be asked to email [commemorative.events@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:commemorative.events@britishlegion.org.uk) during registration if you require a carer.

### **Will representatives of civilian and emergency services including An Garda Siochana be eligible to attend? (e.g. ROI Civilian Services)**

Yes. During The Troubles, there was significant cooperation between HMG & ROI security forces. It is appropriate therefore that cooperation is reflected in this ceremony. Those on duty during The Troubles will therefore be eligible to attend.

Individuals from civilian and emergency services wishing to attend should contact [commemorative.events@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:commemorative.events@britishlegion.org.uk).

TRBL will work with their relevant service and the Civilian Services Contingent to enable their attendance. Invitation will be issued via the Civilian Services Contingent. Civilian and Emergency service Individuals will be required to RSVP and complete their security details via the accreditation system.

A full privacy notice will be available for agreement before submission of details via the accreditation site.

### **How will the two representatives from families of British Armed Forces and civilian service personnel killed as a result of operations in Northern Ireland or paramilitary actions in other countries be selected?**

The Legion will work with the appropriate agencies including the MOD and Widows associations to enable their attendance. Sadly, whilst it is recognised that additional members of individual bereaved families may wish to attend, the primary audience for the ceremony will be those that served during the military operation and attendance priority will reflect that.

### **Will there be a process for exceptional requests from individuals who do not meet the criteria to be considered?**

In the first instance, exceptional requests from individuals should contact their representative Association to express their interest. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that all individuals

participating in the event warrant the opportunity and Associations rightly remain responsible for the selection of those within their respective contingents.

Allowances will be made for people requiring a carer. You will be asked to email [commemorative.events@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:commemorative.events@britishlegion.org.uk) during registration if you require a carer.

**Will there be an appeals/complaints process for rejected applicants? How will this work?**

Appeals should be directed to your relevant Association. If the appeal or complaint is not resolved please write to your Association detailing your issue, who will in turn get in touch with The Royal British Legion to review. All complaints and appeals will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

**Accessibility and Mobility**

Please note that the NMA only have limited number of scooters and we ask therefore to make your own arrangements regarding mobility support, scooters and wheelchairs. Please be assured steps will be taken to ensure the venue is accessible