
FREEDOM OF ARGYLL AND BUTE

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1** Patrick Stewart, CVO, MBE, retired from the role of Lord-Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute in July 2020 after 33 years of service to the Lieutenancy of Argyll and Bute. He was first appointed to the Lieutenancy in 1987, as Depute Lieutenant in the Kintyre area, and then as Vice-Lieutenant in 2002. He was appointed by HM The Queen to the role of Lord-Lieutenant in 2011.
- 1.2** During his time with the Lieutenancy, he actively promoted Argyll and Bute, facilitated numerous Royal visits and the organisation of other notable occasions including the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilees in 2002 and 2012 respectively, and 90th Birthday Celebrations in 2016. A key feature in his tenure was the co-ordination of Argyll and Bute's First World War Centenary Commemorations, including an international remembrance event on Islay in 2018. He was highly visible in the office of the Lieutenancy, promoting decorations and awards for outstanding service, in Argyll & Bute, by individuals and voluntary bodies. He also ensured that the Lieutenancy was involved in Remembrance events and activity. Alongside this he has also played a part in other more individual celebrations, marking the special occasions of local people such as 100th birthdays and Diamond/Platinum wedding anniversaries and making presentations on behalf of HM The Queen.
- 1.3** The Lieutenancy of Argyll and Bute has requested that the Council gives consideration to awarding the Freedom of Argyll and Bute to Patrick Stewart in recognition of his years of service to the community, both in the Lieutenancy context and in other areas of activity outlined in the main report. Council is invited to consider this request.

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2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1** Patrick Stewart CVO, MBE, retired from the role of Lord-Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute in July 2020 after 33 years of service to the Lieutenancy of Argyll and Bute. He was first appointed to the Lieutenancy in 1987, as Depute Lieutenant in the Kintyre area, and then as Vice-Lieutenant in 2002. He was appointed by HM The Queen to the role of Lord-Lieutenant in 2011.
- 2.2** The Lieutenancy of Argyll and Bute has requested that the Council gives consideration to awarding the Freedom of Argyll and Bute to Patrick Stewart in recognition of his many years of service to the community, both in the Lieutenancy context and in other areas of activity outlined in the main report. Council is invited to consider this request.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1** The Council is invited to consider awarding the Freedom of Argyll and Bute to Patrick Stewart CVO, MBE in recognition of his many years of service to Argyll and Bute through his Lieutenancy work and other areas of activity.

4. DETAIL

- 4.1** The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 makes provision for local authorities to award the freedom of the area to people who have given particular service or brought distinction to the district.
- 4.2** Patrick Stewart CVO, MBE was first appointed in 1987 as Depute Lieutenant for the Kintyre area within the Lieutenancy of Argyll and Bute. A solicitor practising in Campbeltown in the family firm of Stewart, Balfour and Sutherland, Mr Stewart had developed particular expertise in a range of legal issues significant to life in Argyll and Bute, including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, renewables and the marine environment.
- 4.3** The marine environment aspect was particularly significant as, while practising as a solicitor, Mr Stewart also served as secretary to the Clyde

Fishermen's Association (CFA), an Executive Committee member of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation and, crucially, as an expert advocate and representative for the fishing industry locally, nationally and internationally. His services to the fishing industry – a significant but fragile sector of the Argyll and Bute economy – ultimately resulted in his being appointed MBE in 2000 and an Honorary President of the CFA, in 2014.

- 4.4** In addition to his Lieutenancy duties, Mr Stewart has had a long history of involvement with the voluntary sector in Argyll and Bute. He was invited to join the Queen's Silver Jubilee Trust for Argyll and Bute in 1977, remaining with the Trust and acting as its chair for ten years after it became the Argyll and Bute Trust, providing funding for young people wishing to pursue their academic and general development. The trust also awarded grants to youth and community groups involved in environmental activities. Locally in Kintyre, Mr Stewart has been involved in many other voluntary organisations, including the Campbeltown and Kintyre Development Trust and the Kintyre Round Table. His most onerous voluntary duty arose from taking command of the Campbeltown Unit Sea Cadet Corps in 1971. From unpromising beginnings, he gathered a team of qualified adult instructors, expanding the unit numbers fivefold, resulting in the Unit being awarded the trophy for the most efficient unit in the northern part of the UK. Along with other duties to the Corps, he was elected to its national governing body in 1983, in which he served for 15 years. He was awarded, this year, the Captain's Sea Cadet Medal recognising his 50 years of service, in the training of young people in the best maritime traditions.
- 4.5** Mr Stewart served as a Depute Lieutenant until 2002 when he was named Vice-Lieutenant. He was appointed Lord-Lieutenant in 2011 by HM The Queen and his contribution to the Lieutenancy and the communities of Argyll and Bute throughout this long period of service has been significant and far-reaching. In recent years a particular focus for him was his role as Chair of the Argyll and Bute World War 1 Commemoration Steering Group, overseeing commemorative events across the area in each of the four centenary years. The very considerable research and planning that such exercises demanded were all the richer for his expertise, knowledge, attention to detail and commitment. A particular highlight of this piece of work was the final major commemoration in 2018 in Islay, marking the loss of the SS Tuscania and the HMS Otranto – significant international tragedies which saw over 500, mainly American, servicemen killed. Mr Stewart took great pride and employed considerable precision to ensure that Argyll and Bute provided a fitting remembrance involving senior national and international political figures as well as Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.
- 4.6** Mr Stewart has often cited the most rewarding aspects of the Lieutenancy service as being those which directly impact people in the community. He took immense pleasure, and felt it a real privilege, to be able to share in key events in people's lives, such as significant birthdays and

anniversaries, presenting messages of congratulations on behalf of the Queen.

- 4.7** The Queen's New Year Honours 2020 saw Mr Stewart appointed as a Companion of the Royal Victorian Order. This award is made at the personal behest of the Queen to mark dedicated personal service. Despite such a positive start to his final year in the Lord-Lieutenant role, the Covid-19 pandemic meant that the remaining months of his term were very different to those originally envisaged. However, typical of his approach to Lieutenancy duties over the years, Mr Stewart's hard work, dedication, dignity and sense of duty ensured that the Lieutenancy of Argyll and Bute remained active, retaining excellent links to the Royal Households it represents and the communities it serves.
- 4.8** Patrick Stewart CVO, MBE retired as Lord-Lieutenant on his 75th birthday in July 2020, in line with protocol. His colleagues paid tribute at that time to a 'role carried out with the utmost dignity and dedication to duty'. The Lieutenancy of Argyll and Bute has requested that the Council considers awarding Mr Stewart the Freedom of Argyll and Bute in recognition of his decades of public service and his contribution and commitment to the people and communities of Argyll and Bute.
- 4.9** Section 206 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 makes provision for the admission of honorary freemen of the area of persons of distinction or any persons who have rendered eminent service to the particular islands area or district. This would require to take place at a Special Meeting of the Council which specifies the proposal as an item of business and the resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the voting members at the meeting.
- 4.10** The council keeps a roll containing the names of people admitted as Freemen of Argyll and Bute in accordance with this section of the Act. The last awards of Freedom of Argyll and Bute were made to former Provost William Petrie in 2012 and to Helensburgh tennis player Gordon Reid in 2016.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1** Patrick Stewart CVO, MBE has given decades of service to the community, the Lieutenancy of Argyll and HM The Queen within Argyll and Bute. His dedication has been of a level to warrant receipt of a personal award from the Queen, and he has been involved in issues of cultural and economic significance not only to Argyll and Bute but on an international basis.
- 5.2** Members of the Council are invited to consider the request by the Lieutenancy of Argyll and Bute to confer the Freedom of Argyll and Bute on Patrick Stewart in recognition of his years of service.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Policy; none.

6.2 Financial; none.

6.3 Legal; none.

6.4 HR; none

6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty: none

6.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics; none

6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty; none

6.5.3 Islands; none

6.6 Risk; none

6.7 Customer Service; strengthens partnership working and links between the Lieutenancy of Argyll and Bute

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22 October 2021**

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