Captain Paul Hill KVRM RD Royal Navy, Chairman of City Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association

19 December 2025

Alderman Michael Mainelli

Dear Michael

I am writing to thank you for the work you did during your Mayoralty in support of the Armed Forces Community and in particular your initiative to encourage the signing of the Armed Forces Covenant (AFC) by Livery Companies. I thought you might appreciate an update on what a very successful campaign this has been.

You may recall that when we first discussed the City of London support for the Armed Forces community the subject of Livery support was raised. The Livery Companies have always been active supporters of the Military and most have multiple affiliations with regular, reserve and cadet units. In some cases these have existed for decades and provide much valued recognition and raised awareness. However, since the Ministry of Defence introduced the AFC in 2011 as a public declaration of support for the Armed Forces Community only 5 Livery Companies had signed.

You saw this as an opportunity to advocate as Lord Mayor to the wider Livery the importance of signing the AFC as a demonstration of support to the Armed Forces community. Communicating this across the Livery with its 45,000 members from a national and varied business background would have a significant impact. You set a target of 50 Livery companies signed by the end of your Mayoralty and we reached 35 signings, with many more expressing an intention to sign.

This groundwork has led to further success under the Mayoralty of Alastair and Florence King who have continued your advocacy with the additional focus provided by Florence's military service as an Army Reservist. I am therefore, delighted to say that we have now signed 85 Livery Companies and with those planning to sign will have over 100 in the coming months.

Thank you for your active support and leadership. This initiative has significantly developed support for the Armed Forces within the City and our intention is to now use the platform that you have helped to build to further increase awareness at a time when the importance of Defence is being actively debated nationally.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Hill
Captain Royal Navy
Chairman, City Reserve Forces and Cadets Association