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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Council</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>27 September 2018</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration &amp; Resources</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>SL/LP/097/18</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Sharon Lang</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712112</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Motion by PoppyScotland's Count Them In Campaign – Request from Councillor McCabe</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of a request received from Councillor McCabe that consideration be given to the attached motion (appendix 1) from PoppyScotland relative to the organisation's Count Them In campaign.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

2.1 The aim of the campaign is to seek to inclusion of an Armed Forces question in the 2021 Census with a view to ensuring that services are tailored accordingly.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 The Council is asked to consider the request from Councillor McCabe.

From Colonel (Retd) Mark Bibbey,  
Chief Executive



Councillor Stephen McCabe  
Leader of the Council  
Inverclyde Council  
10 Victoria Gardens  
KILMACOLM  
PA13 4HL

9 August 2018

Dear Councillor McCabe

**Poppyscotland's Count Them In Campaign – Submitting a Motion to Full Council**

I am writing to ask if your local authority would pledge public support for Poppyscotland's *Count Them In* campaign. This could include issuing a press release or submitting a motion to full council. I have taken the liberty of attaching (below) a possible draft text of a motion for your perusal. I would also ask you to write to your local constituency MSP and Regional MSPs to tell them about your local authority's support for the campaign, as it will be the Scottish Parliament who will vote on this issue in Autumn 2018.

As a nation, we promise to provide lifelong care and support for those who serve our country. It is important to know where members of our Armed Forces community in Scotland live, and to understand the issues they face, in order to tailor our services accordingly. By including those who have served and their families in the 2021 Census, we can help public bodies and charities deliver the best services they can for our Armed Forces community, when and where it is needed most.

To date, seven local authorities in Scotland have pledged support and we are encouraged by the positive response we have received from both the UK and Scottish Governments. I am pleased to report that our '*Count Them In*' campaign, has received on-the-record support from the majority of Scottish MPs and MSPs. We await with interest the confirmation of the final questions that will appear in the 2021 Census.

Your support and that of your local authority is vital to ensuring that when the final decision goes before the Scottish Parliament in autumn, the right decision is made for all members of our Armed Forces community and that we Count Them In.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our request.

Yours sincerely

**Mark Bibbey**  
Chief Executive

cc: Local Authority Armed Forces Champion

Poppyscotland Edinburgh, New Haig House, Logie Green Road, Edinburgh EH7 4HQ

Tel: 0131 557 2782



Poppyscotland is a member of The Royal British Legion group of charities and is a trading name of The Earl Haig Fund Scotland. Scottish Charity No. SC014096. A Company limited by guarantee. Registered in Scotland No. 194893 at the Edinburgh address above. The Royal British Legion, Haig House, 199 Borough High Street, London SE1 1AA. Charity Registration No. 219279.



PROVIDING LIFE-CHANGING SUPPORT TO OUR ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY

From Colonel (Retd) Mark Bibbey,  
Chief Executive



That the Council supports Poppyscotland's Count Them In campaign which aims to see the inclusion of an Armed Forces question in the next Census in 2021. Notes that there is currently very limited information about where our veterans now live and what support they may need. Believes that gathering this information through the Census will allow for an improved understanding of this unique community and ensure that the Council, alongside others, can ensure we are fully meeting the needs of our serving personnel, veterans and their families. Instructs the Chief Executive to write to Poppyscotland, the local constituency and regional MSPs within the local authority area to inform them of Council's support.

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THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION



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