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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Council</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>5 December 2024</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital &amp; Customer Services</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>LS/088/24</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Colin MacDonald</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712113</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023 – Notice of Motion by Councillor Brooks</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE AND CONSIDERATIONS

- 1.1  For Decision  For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of the receipt of a Notice of Motion by Councillor Brooks, countersigned by Councillor Wilson, relative to the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023.
- 1.3 The terms of the Notice of Motion are set out in appendix 1 to the report.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Council is asked to consider the Notice of Motion by Councillor Brooks.

**Lynsey Brown**  
**Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services**

## Appendix 1

### **Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023**

Inverclyde Council is the proud holder of the gold-level award for the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme - commonly referred to as the Armed Forces Covenant – and the proud home of 2,289 veterans.

In this year's King's Speech, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2024, the Prime Minister set out measures to repeal and replace the *Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023*. This Act gave members of the British Armed Forces who served in Northern Ireland the same protection from prosecution as that given to those convicted of acts of terror and those who, until the passing of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, had evaded justice.

In interviews given by the Prime Minister prior to this year's General Election, he made it clear that he does not believe British service personnel should have immunity from prosecution, but convicted paramilitaries and those evading justice should continue to enjoy this protection as the cost of a lasting peace.

The repeal of the *Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023* is an act of betrayal to British Armed Forces veterans who saw active service during Operation Banner. It is an affront to the British military community, serving and veterans.

As a signatory to the Armed Forces Covenant, this Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister asking him to reconsider his commitment to repealing 2023 Act or, if he is so determined, to replace it with an Act that gives British Armed Forces veterans at least the same degree of protection from prosecution related to The Troubles as those enjoyed by those already pardoned as part of the Peace Process.

Proposed by: Councillor Graeme Brooks

Seconded by: Councillor David Wilson