

# Description of the Hertfordshire Lieutenancy

## History of The Lieutenancy

The office of Lord-Lieutenant is military in origin and can be said to date from the reign of King Henry VIII in the 1540s, when Lord-Lieutenants were appointed in some counties and were responsible for the maintenance of order by both appointing and managing magistrates and for all military measures necessary for local defence. The Lord-Lieutenant was also responsible for looking after state documents in his county and informing The King of what was going on. The title 'Lieutenant' literally meant to 'stand in for' The King, in the battlefield and elsewhere. Lieutenancies soon became more organised, probably in the reign of King Edward VI, and their establishment was approved by the English Parliament in 1550.

In 1569 provision was made for the appointment of Deputies.

It was not until 1586 when Queen Elizabeth I, in light of the impending invasion from Spain, appointed Lord-Lieutenants more widely. Except for the English Interregnum, between 1649 and 1660, when there was no monarch, there have been Lord-Lieutenants ever since. In 1662 Lord-Lieutenants were given control of the militia. The official title of the office at this time was His or Her Majesty's "Lieutenant for the county of X", but as almost all officeholders were peers they were referred to as the "Lord-Lieutenant". The Forces Act of 1871 transferred command of militias back to the Crown and over subsequent years the emphasis shifted towards today's ceremonial role and wider involvement with communities throughout counties. It was not until 1921 that Lord Lieutenants finally lost the power to call on all the able-bodied men of a county to fight in the case of need. However, the traditional links with the Armed Forces have been preserved, reflecting the role of The King as head of the Armed Forces. The office of Lord-Lieutenant has been provided for in statute, most recently by the Lieutenancies Act 1997.

Lord-Lieutenants' connections with the Armed Forces have led to links

with other uniformed organisations, such as the police, fire and ambulance services, and many voluntary bodies such as St. John Ambulance, the Cadet Forces and other national and local organisations. The Lord-Lieutenant appoints his own “Lord-Lieutenant’s” Cadets annually who assist him and Deputy Lieutenants in carrying out a number of duties. In recent years, the circles within which the Lord-Lieutenant’s leadership role is exercised have come to include a wide range of matters, civil and defence, professional and voluntary. Lord-Lieutenants are effective in such work largely because of their links to the Crown and the essentially voluntary and apolitical nature of their role.

From the earliest days, the Lord-Lieutenant was closely associated with the magistracy. Until the 19th century he appointed the Clerk of the Peace. The Lord-Lieutenant is still associated with the magistracy.

### [The Modern Role of a Lord-Lieutenant](#)

The Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire is Mr Robert Voss CBE CStJ. He is His Majesty’s representative in Hertfordshire and consequently it is his duty to uphold the dignity of the Crown in the County. In his role he supports The King in his capacity as 'Head of the Nation',

in which he acts as a focus for national identity, unity and pride; gives a sense of stability and continuity; officially recognises success and excellence; and supports the ideal of voluntary service and community integration.

While the Lieutenancy’s role has evolved over time, much like that of the Monarchy’s, its purpose in supporting the Crown remains. The King and his Government expect certain duties of the Lord-Lieutenant. These duties may broadly be classified as being: (i) to assist with visits by Members of the Royal Family; (ii) to promote, encourage and validate nominations for national honours and awards, and to present certain honours, medals and awards on behalf of The King, notably these include British Empire Medals, the King’s Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS) and the King’s Awards for Enterprise (KAE); (iii) to liaise with and support local units

of the Armed Forces and associated Cadet Forces; and (iv) to lead the local magistracy as Co-chair of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Advisory Committee for Magistrates, with the Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire.

In addition to these duties, the Lord-Lieutenant will follow the example of The King and other members of the Royal Family in seeking generally to promote a spirit of co-operation through the encouragement he gives to voluntary service, and to benevolent organisations, and by the interest he takes in the business, industrial, community and social life of the County, and of its affairs generally.

The Lord-Lieutenant's role is non-political. He avoids being involved in controversy which might lead to the impartiality of his office being questioned. As The King's representative, he and his Deputy Lieutenants will stand aloof from politics neither take part in political activities nor hold office in political parties.

It is important to note that the Lieutenancy does not create honours, take direct responsibility for forming or managing corporate bodies or take any other actions which could be perceived to compete with other established institutions. The Lieutenancy operates using its influence to convene honour, advocate and encourage others.

### [Appointment of Lord Lieutenants](#)

Lord-Lieutenants are appointed by The King on the advice of the Prime Minister. They serve in the post until their 75th birthday, so Lord-Lieutenants have the advantage of being longer in office than most civic dignitaries and thus have the time to become very knowledgeable about life in the county.

### [Members of the Lieutenancy](#)

The Lord-Lieutenant is required to appoint a Vice Lord-Lieutenant and a number of Deputy Lieutenants to assist him perform his duties and act as his representatives. A Deputy Lieutenant's commission should be

regarded as an honour and Deputy Lieutenants are entitled to use the post-nominal “DL” after their name. The number of Deputy Lieutenants the Lord-Lieutenant can appoint is calculated under a formula based on the number of inhabitants from the last published census living in Hertfordshire. In accordance with this formula, the Lord Lieutenant may appoint up to 57 Deputy Lieutenants.

The process of appointing Lieutenants includes conducting a number of checks with the Government and seeking The King’s approval for the appointment of the Vice Lord-Lieutenant and His non-disapproval of the appointment of a Deputy Lieutenant. The primary criterion for appointment is that of appropriate service, local distinction and a commitment to continuing service, together with residence in the county, or within seven miles from its boundary. All members of the Lieutenancy retire on their 75th birthday. Commissions do not lapse with the demise of the Monarch or the demise or retirement of the Lord-Lieutenant. It is inappropriate for those who are active politically to be considered for appointment. The Lieutenancy is not a club or society.

As representatives of the Lord-Lieutenant, Deputy Lieutenants are expected to conduct themselves appropriately in accordance with someone holding public office and specifically to adhere to the seven Principles of Public Life (“Nolan Principles”): Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty, Leadership. Under the Lieutenancies Act 1997, the commission of a Deputy Lieutenant may be revoked by the Lord-Lieutenant at any time and does not require His Majesty’s approval.

## Lieutenancy Panels

To assist him in performing his duties, the Lord-Lieutenant has formed 16 panels, each of which focuses on a particular aspect of the life or an area of the County. Membership of each of these panels is made up of Deputy Lieutenants who have a particular interest in the panel’s work. Details of the panels and of their membership are to be found on this web site under the “About Us” tab.

## Uniform

The Lord-Lieutenant and Deputy Lieutenants have a uniform which symbolises the historic links between the Lieutenancy and the Armed Forces, as well as providing a formal sense of occasion to events such as Remembrance Day Services, Civic functions and Royal visits. The Lord-Lieutenant's uniform is similar to that of an Army General. While historically this uniform has only been available for male Lord-Lieutenants and Deputy Lieutenants, one has now been designed for female Lord-Lieutenants and female Deputy Lieutenants. Deputy Lieutenants holding Navy, Army or Air Force rank of substantive Colonel (or equivalent) or above may, at their discretion, wear the military uniform to which they are entitled. When not in uniform, Deputy Lieutenants may wear an enamelled badge depicting the Tudor rose, suspended on a ribbon or court bow. However, only one badge may be worn at an event, and only in the absence of the Lord-Lieutenant. Deputy Lieutenants may also wear a lapel pin on official Lieutenancy business. It is also practice for Lord-Lieutenants and his Deputies only to wear their uniforms in their own counties unless express permission has been sought from the Lord-Lieutenant of the county visited.

## Remuneration and Expenses

The roles of the Lord-Lieutenant, Vice Lord-Lieutenant and Deputy Lieutenant are voluntary and unpaid. The Lieutenancy has adopted a similar policy on gifts to that which applies to Ministers and Officers of the Royal Household, as set out in the Ministerial Code published by the Cabinet Office. A Member of the Lieutenancy will not accept a gift, hospitality or service from anyone which would, or might appear to, place him or her under an obligation.

## Fund Raising

Members of the Lieutenancy are not expected to involve themselves with fundraising appeals. However, if they wish to do so they use their discretion in deciding with which appeals to be associated. The Lord-

Lieutenant is a Patron of a small number of local charities and does support appeals directly connected with The King.

## Communications

The main channel of external communication is through the Lieutenancy's public website. The Lord-Lieutenant has a Twitter account, managed by the Lord-Lieutenant himself. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 created statutory rights of access to information held by listed "public authorities" subject to certain exemptions. Lord-Lieutenants are not public authorities to which the Act applies.

## Other useful information

The website of His Majesty and the Royal Family: [www.royal.uk](http://www.royal.uk)

The Lieutenancy's public website: [lord-lieutenant-herts.org.uk](http://lord-lieutenant-herts.org.uk)

The Lord Lieutenant's Twitter address: [@hertslieutenant](https://twitter.com/hertslieutenant)

The Government Honours website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-the-honours-system-works>

The King's Awards for Enterprise: <https://www.gov.uk/kings-awards-for-enterprise>

The King's Award for Voluntary Service: <https://www.gov.uk/kings-award-for-voluntary-service>

The Lieutenancy Act 1997:  
[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/23/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/23/contents)

The Nolan Principles: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life>

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