

From Major General N D Ashmore CB OBE



**Military Secretary and  
General Officer Scotland**  
Army Personnel Centre  
Mail Point 500  
Kentigern House  
65 Brown Street  
Glasgow G2 8EX

Civil: [REDACTED]  
Military: [REDACTED]  
Fax: [REDACTED]  
E-mail: [REDACTED]

D/MS Hons/47/37

Colonel The Right Honourable R E Davidson MSP  
Leader, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party  
M2.04  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

Dear Ruth,

On behalf of the Chief of the General Staff and the Army Board it gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on becoming Honorary Colonel 32 Signal Regiment in succession to Colonel Allan Lapsley. Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve your appointment and Honorary Commission for a period of five years from 17 April 2017. The announcement will be published in the London Gazette Defence Supplement on or about 18 April 2017.

The Army Board recognises the need to foster the regimental system to ensure that it remains robust and secure to face whatever the future holds. The Board much-appreciates the contribution made by Honorary Colonels who provide such valuable guidance, support and continuity. To help you in your new task I enclose a copy of 'Notes on Honorary Colonels of Army Reserve Units' which I hope you will find useful.

I should explain that you may use the rank of Colonel only within regimental circles and on regimental business.

Many congratulations - and thank you for taking this on,

Yours ever,

Nick

Copy to:

GOC HQ FTC  
Comd HQ 11 Sig Bde & HQ WM  
Regt Sec RHQ R SIGNALS  
CO 32 Sig Regt

11SIGX-HQ- [REDACTED]

---

**From:** 11SIGX-HQ- [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: HON COL 32 SIG REGT

---

**From:** R SIGNALS HQ- [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 05 December 2016 17:34  
**To:** 32SIG-RHQ- [REDACTED]; 11SIGX-HQ- [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** 32SIG-RHQ- [REDACTED]; R SIGNALS HQ-Corps [REDACTED]; 11SIGX-2SigGp- [REDACTED]; R SIGNALS HQ-Reserves Corps [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: HON COL 32 SIG REGT

All,

The Master as just given his approval for Ruth Davidson to become Hon Col 32 Sig Regt from April 2017. The paperwork outlined by [REDACTED] can, therefore, now be initiated.

Can I suggest a target date of Mon 17 Apr 17?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Regimental Secretary Royal Signals**  
**Headquarters Royal Signals**  
**Griffin House**  
**Blandford Camp**  
**Dorset DT11 8RH**  
**Tel:** [REDACTED]  
**Mil:** [REDACTED]  
**DII Email:** [RSIGNALSHQ-\[REDACTED\]](mailto:RSIGNALSHQ@[REDACTED])  
**Email:** [REDACTED]

Click on this box to donate to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund:



Text 70070 and enter "RSBF11 Exx" where xx is the sum you would like to donate.



[REDACTED] | **Commanding Officer | 32<sup>nd</sup> Signal Regiment**  
RHQ, 21 Jardine Street, Glasgow, G20 6JU

Telephone  
Fax  
Email



Military  
Mobile  
DII

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
32SIG-RHQ-CO

Please find enclosed the paperwork for the nomination of The Rt Hon Ruth Davidson as the next Honorary Colonel of 32<sup>nd</sup> Signal Regiment.

Ms Davidson is an outstanding choice for the position. Notwithstanding her current position as Leader of the Conservative and Unionist Party in the Scottish Parliament, she is a well-known journalist, public speaker and supporter of the Chambers of Commerce and many charities. Most importantly, she is a former member of the Unit.

I expanded on these reasons in my letter to RHQ Royal Signals, a copy of which I have enclosed.

Ms Davidson has indicated to me that, should she be offered the position by the Sovereign, she would be willing to accept. I have enclosed a copy of her letter in this pack.

Finally, her nomination is strongly endorsed by Lowland RFCA. Her appointment would be hugely beneficial for Army Engagement, providing a champion for the British Army with both employers and wider society. Already, she supports the Army in Scotland via Leadership talks for potential officers. The RFCA's support is indicated on the enclosed AFE 20031.

*with compliments*



## Recommendation for the Appointment or Extension of Tenure of an Honorary Colonel of an Army Reserve Regional Unit

**Surname**

Davidson

**Forename(s)**

Ruth Elizabeth

**Rank or Title**

Member of the Privy Council (Rt Hon), MSP

**Personal Number (if applicable)**

N/A

**Decorations**

Nil

**Date of Birth**

10 November 1978

**Telephone Number**

[REDACTED]

**Private Address**

Leader of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party  
M2.04, The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

**Unit for which nominated**

32nd Signal Regiment

**Assumption/Extension of Appointment wef**

Assumption of appointment

**Brief History of Military Service**

As a former soldier in 32 Sig Regt (in the rank of officer cadet), Ms Davidson will be able to relate to and be comfortable interacting with the officers and soldiers of the Regiment.

She has recently been supporting the Army Reserves' drive to recruit young officers. If she were selected as Honorary Colonel, we would look to use her position to support our own officer recruitment, a key weakness in our manning.

Application is strongly supported by the RFCA.

**Civilian Activities**

Ms Davidson is the leader of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party in the Scottish Parliament. As such she has reached eminence in her political field, she is in a position to grant the Unit wider influence within the civilian community. She is a well-known and extremely popular figure in both Scottish and UK politics, appearing regularly as a commentator on television. Her appointment will be hugely beneficial for general Army Engagement, giving access at many levels, and will provide a champion with both employers and wider society. This may prove vital in the coming few years as the Regiment takes the lead with Corps recruiting in Scotland, extending our reach to other potential sources or organisations with which we can share personnel and resources. As an influential politician, Ms Davidson would prove a wise counsellor to the CO, in local political matters and community engagement. As a public figure, Ms Davidson will be comfortable with dealing with important visitors to the Regiment and high profile events, such as Remembrance Sunday.

**Date**

10 Jun 17

**Commanding Officer**

[REDACTED]

**Date**

GOC Div

**Date**

6 Jan 17

**RFCA**

Lowland RFCA - Chief Executive

[REDACTED]  
for Chrisina  
Lowland RFCA

**Date**

16 Jan 17.

Comd

Bde

[REDACTED]

(Only if applicable - see para 01.04.1456 of Army Reserve Regulations, 1978).

**Date**

CLF

From [REDACTED]



**Commanding Officer  
32<sup>nd</sup> Signal Regiment  
Regimental Headquarters  
Mercury Barracks  
21 Jardine Street  
Glasgow  
G20 6JU**

Military Network:  
Telephone:  
Facsimile:  
E-mail:



Our reference: 32Sig/CO/Hon Col

[REDACTED]  
Regimental Secretary  
Headquarters Royal Signals  
Blandford Camp  
BLANDFORD FORUM  
Dorset  
DT11 8RH

November 2016

#### **APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY COLONEL 32ND SIGNAL REGIMENT**

1. I am currently in the process of selecting a new Honorary Colonel for 32<sup>nd</sup> Signal Regiment. Having received permission from the Corps Colonel and Commander 2 Signal Group, I approached the Rt Hon Ruth Davidson MSP PC to see if, subject to the Sovereign approval, she would accept the position.
2. I am writing to formally inform RHQ of the nomination, in order to seek approval from the Master Of Signals, to further the paperwork toward official approval.
3. A former member of the Regiment and current leader of the Conservative and Unionist Party in the Scottish Parliament, Ms Davidson is ideally placed to represent the Unit in governmental, civil and military communities. I have outlined my reasoning for nominating Ms Davidson for the role below:
  - a. **Influence.** Having reached eminence in her political field, Ms Davidson is in a position to grant the Unit wider influence within the civilian community. This may prove vital in the coming few years as the Regt takes the lead with Corps recruiting in Scotland, extending our reach to other potential sources or organisations with which we can share personnel and resources.
  - b. **Personality.** As a former soldier, Ms Davidson will be able to relate to and be comfortable interacting with the officers and soldiers of the Regiment.
  - c. **Interest.** Not only is Ms Davidson a former member of the Regiment, she has recently been supporting the Army Reserves' drive to recruit young officers. If she were selected as Honorary Colonel, we would look to use her position to support our own officer recruitment, a key weakness in our manning.
  - d. **Wisdom.** As an influential politician, Ms Davidson would prove a wise counsellor to myself and the COs that follow me, in local political matters and community engagement.



e. **Ceremonial.** As a public figure, Ms Davidson will be comfortable with dealing with important visitors to the Regiment and high profile events, such as Remembrance Sunday.

4. In summary, Ms Davidson is an ideal fit for Honorary Colonel 32<sup>nd</sup> Signal Regiment. She will be of great use in representing the Regiment across the region, providing support to our recruitment initiatives, and taking on the role of figurehead of the Unit.

Yours,

A black rectangular redaction mark covers the signature area of the letter.



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rt Hon Ruth Davidson MSP  
Leader, Scottish Conservatives

[REDACTED]  
Regimental Headquarters  
32<sup>nd</sup> Signal Regiment  
21 Jardine Street  
Glasgow  
G20 6JU

22 November 2016

*Dear* [REDACTED],

**Nomination of Honorary Colonel – 32<sup>nd</sup> Signal Regiment**

I am writing to confirm that, if offered to me by the Sovereign, I am willing to accept the appointment of Honorary Colonel for 32<sup>nd</sup> Signal Regiment.

As a former member of the Unit, I will take a keen interest in Regimental activity, along with the welfare of the soldiers and officers that work within it.

I am eager to take the role of the Unit's figure-head, would proudly represent the Regiment at ceremonial events and support its interests in military and civilian communities.

As part of this role, I would be pleased to provide advice and counselling to you and other Regimental staff in Scottish and political affairs.

Yours sincerely,

**Ruth Davidson MSP**  
Leader of the Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party



