

REPORT

To: Carrick Pursuivant, Prof Gillian Black, Supervisory Officer
From: The Council of Presidents of those representing the families MacDuffie, MacDuffee, MacDuffy, MacAfee, MacFee, MacFie, MacPhee, MacPhie and other accepted cognates
Re: Progress in settling the name of the Clan
Date: 26 March 2025

Background

The Council has been formed to undertake the process of finding a suitable nominee for Clan Commander. This position has been vacant for several years after the previous Commander, Iain Macfie of Coulintyre, Kinncraig, Kingussie, Scotland resigned due to ill health in 2021.

The Council has contracted the services of Dr Bruce Durie as a consultant to help it develop a programme for submission of a suitable nominee from the Clan to the Lord Lyon for his consideration. However, before it can do this it must first agree on a name

Achieving an overwhelming consensus for a Clan name

In May 2024 the Council commenced its programme to canvas the Clan members on an agreed name. In July 2024 it surveyed Clan members worldwide using different media and asked them to select their preference from three alternatives. This is referred to as ROUND 1.

Of the 157 valid preferences submitted there was no evidence of an 'overwhelming consensus' among the choices of names proposed i.e. MacDuffie, Macfie and Dubhsith, which the Lord Lyon requires.

Due to the ROUND 1 result the Council has asked the Lord Lyon to permit the Clan to try again to settle the name and this request was accepted by the Court but with a limit of time.

Finding an acceptable compromise

In order to meet the Lord Lyon's requirements for a consensus and to overcome the differences created by the modern non-Gaelic versions of the name, the Council agreed to a proposal that a Gaelic form of our name, either Dubhsith or MacDubhsith, might have a better chance of achieving the desired result.

Therefore, the Council after research and much discussion decided unanimously that MacDubhsith, would be put forward to Clan members worldwide as the preferred name. This is a spelling of our ancient Gaelic name that the Council considers that it best connects all of us to our Scottish heritage through our numerous non-Gaelic surname spellings.

This process is starting with finalising the wording of the ROUND 2 information sheets and forms which have been prepared and will be distributed soon. These were approved in principle by the Council at its meeting last week.

Objectives of ROUND 2

With the Council's request for more time now approved by the Lord Lyon, the Council has agreed to adopt the following objectives.

To:

- communicate a new timeline to Clan members for the process of settling the name

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- clearly communicate eligibility requirements for participation of Clan members to submit their preference
- encourage all Clan members to review carefully all available information on the process
- communicate this action worldwide via postings in electronic and traditional media
- gain Clan members' support for its efforts to overcome differences in the selection of a Clan name by promoting an ancient Gaelic form that the Council considers best connects all of us to our Scottish heritage through our numerous non-Gaelic surnames.

Timeline for achieving consensus

The timeline for this work is being prepared and will be forwarded to Carrick within the next week or so. It will include the following:

- Explaining and broadcasting the process for ROUND 2. The final drafts for this are being prepared to be approved by the Council out-of-session
- Finalising the preference form and distributing it through websites, social media and newsletters. This is to be returned by 30 June 2025 to the member appointed by the Council to collect and collate the results
- Processing the forms, determining the result and publicising this information through various electronic and conventional media
- Informing Carrick of the results of the survey and requesting that these be conveyed to the Lord Lyon

Calling for nominees for Clan Commander

If the result indicates a clear preference for the proposed Gaelic version of the name, the Council will ask Carrick to convey this information to the Lord Lyon for his approval. Once this is granted, the Council will call for nominations for Clan Commander to be submitted to it through a Notice of Intent (NOI) by 1 November 2025. This process is as follows:

1. The Council will issue a general notice that the Clan is searching for a suitable person to become its Commander with guidelines on the information required from the nominee
2. Nominees will be asked to complete a Notice of Intent (NOI) and submit to the Council all the necessary documentation for review by 01 November 2025 either by email or by post. Email is preferred.
3. From these submissions the Council will then identify suitably credentialed nominees who will be assigned ID numbers and who will be invited to make their case for becoming Commander either in person or virtually at the Family Convention in Scotland, currently planned for May 2026
4. After hearing the presentations the Clan will nominate (hopefully with an overwhelming consensus) the successful candidate who will be referred to Carrick for a final review prior to her submission of the nominee to the Lord Lyon for his approval.