

Commissioning of Ian George Neal as Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham

In 1545 Henry VIII appointed a number of noblemen as Lord-Lieutenants for groups of countries to deal with specific threats of rebellion with which the Sheriffs were unable to cope, and gave them Commission of Array to raise military forces. The Sheriffs continued as the Crown Law Enforcers, but the Lord-Lieutenants were expected to keep the counties loyal by putting pressure on the gentry and controlling the Justices of the Peace. It was not until 1921 that the Lord-Lieutenants lost power to call upon the able-bodied men of their county to fight in case of need.

Today the fundamental principle concerning the office of Lord-lieutenant is that they are Her Majesty's representative in their county and consequently it is their first and foremost duty to uphold the dignity of the Crown. The Lord-Lieutenant will follow the example of Her Majesty by promoting a good atmosphere and a spirit of co-operation by the encouragement they give to voluntary services and benevolent organisations and by the interest they take in the business, industrial and social life of the county and the voluntary activity that goes with it.

It is a huge privilege and honour to be Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham, as area with rich heritage and I am confident a bright future and the lieutenancy has an important part to play in that future

As Lord-Lieutenant I am required to appoint Deputy Lord-Lieutenants to assist me in carrying out my duties. They must be representative of the county's life in social range, gender, community background, ethnicity and service to the community.

Ian George Neal, Her Majesty not disapproving of the granting of the commission, you are appointed as Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of county Durham

Mrs Sue Snowdon
Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham

1 May 2021