



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF COACHMAKERS AND COACH HARNESS MAKERS

That this Petition is submitted pursuant to the authority granted by a Resolution of the Court of Assistants (duly convened on the 25th March 2026), empowering Your Petitioners to seek such renewal and amendment of the Charter as herein set forth.

That Your Petitioners, having undertaken due consideration and consultation within the Company and, where appropriate, with external bodies, now respectfully submit this Petition for Your Majesty's gracious consideration, together with the proposed form of the renewed Charter and By-Laws.

FORMAL PETITION

THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY IN COUNCIL.

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF COACHMAKERS AND COACH HARNESS MAKERS OF LONDON SHEWETH AS FOLLOWS:–

Your Petitioners respectfully state that the Worshipful Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers of London was founded by Royal Charter granted by His Majesty King Charles II in the year 1677. The Company has, since that date, faithfully upheld the duties, responsibilities, and charitable purposes set forth in its Charter, and has continued to serve the public interest through the promotion of craftsmanship, engineering excellence, and civic service within the City of London.

The original Charter established the Company as the governing body for the craftsmen engaged in the making and maintenance of coaches and harnesses, trades which were central to the transport, commerce, and ceremonial life of the nation. Over the course of nearly three and a half centuries, the nature of mobility has evolved profoundly, and the Company has adapted accordingly. While preserving its heritage and traditions, the Company has expanded its remit to embrace the modern automotive and aerospace industries, which represent the natural successors to the historic craft of coachmaking.

Your Petitioners further state that the Company is today incorporated as a Livery Company of the City of London, governed by its Court, comprising the Master, Senior, Renter and Junior Wardens, Past Masters, Court Assistants, and Clerk. The Company maintains a stable and active membership of Freemen and Liverymen drawn from the automotive, aerospace, defence, engineering, heritage, and associated professional sectors. Membership is granted to individuals of integrity and good standing who support the Company's charitable and civic mission.

The Company's financial position is sound and prudently managed. Income is derived from member quarterage, charitable donations, legacies, sponsorships, and investment returns. The Company's Charitable Trust is administered with due diligence and provides sustainable support for its educational and charitable programmes. These include bursaries for engineering students, apprenticeships in automotive and aerospace engineering, grants to schools and colleges, mentoring schemes, and support for Armed Forces personnel transitioning to civilian engineering careers.

Your Petitioners respectfully submit that the Company has achieved significant distinction in its field. It has established respected awards for excellence in automotive and aerospace engineering, supported heritage crafts associated with coachmaking and leatherwork, and maintained long-standing affiliations with the Royal Navy, the Army, and the Royal Air Force. Its partnerships with leading automotive and aerospace manufacturers, including Bentley Motors, Lockheed Martin, Airbus, BAE Systems and others demonstrate its standing within the modern mobility sector. The Company's events and programmes serve as a forum for thought leadership, bringing together senior figures from industry, defence, academia, and Government.

In light of these developments, Your Petitioners humbly state that the Company's existing Charter, granted in 1677, no longer fully reflects the breadth of its modern activities, responsibilities, and contributions to the public good. The evolution of the Company from a guild of traditional craftsmen to a Livery Company representing excellence across the automotive, aerospace, and wider mobility engineering sectors necessitates an updated and supplemental Charter that accurately reflects its present purpose and future aspirations.

Your Petitioners therefore seek a Supplemental Charter to:

- Recognise formally the Company's expanded remit in the automotive, aerospace, and mobility engineering industries;
- Affirm its charitable and educational mission in supporting young people entering engineering and technical professions;
- Reflect its long-standing and active affiliations with the Armed Forces;
- Confirm its role as a convenor of expertise across heritage crafts and modern engineering disciplines;
- Ensure that its governance and constitutional framework remain fit for purpose in the modern era.

Your Petitioners respectfully submit that the granting of a Supplemental Charter is in the public interest. It will strengthen the Company's ability to support national skills development, promote engineering excellence, preserve heritage crafts, and contribute to the civic life of the City of London. It will also provide clarity and assurance to Government, industry partners, educational institutions, and the wider public regarding the Company's purpose, governance, and charitable activities.

YOUR PETITIONERS therefore most humbly pray that Your Majesty may be graciously pleased to grant a Supplemental Charter revising and extending the Charter of 1677 so that it may reflect the Company's present functions, responsibilities, and contributions to the public good.

And Your Petitioners will ever pray, etc.

Signed:

