

# FELIX FUND

THE BOMB DISPOSAL CHARITY

## FELIX FUND IMPACT REPORT 2022/2023



THE BOMB DISPOSAL CHARITY FOR THE  
ENTIRE EOD & SEARCH COMMUNITY

Since 2011

Registered Charity No. 1142494

# Felix Fund Impact Report 2022/2023

Felix Fund the bomb disposal charity exists to provide help to any military personnel from across all three services and SO15 (Metropolitan Police Counter Terror Unit) who have conducted or assisted with Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Search duties.

The charity provides welfare support and financial assistance to serving personnel, veterans, and their dependents.

Founded in April 2011 the charity works across the UK.

## Message from the Chairman

*Now in its 12th year, Felix Fund is as engaged with delivering charitable grants as it was when it first started in 2011. While support to those with physical injuries has thankfully subsided post-Iraq and Afghanistan, the requirement to assist those with mental scars and disabilities, together with those enduring hard times (partly due the cost of living crisis), is ever present.*

*Our flagship Dashboard course is an established (and extremely popular) mechanism for helping individuals develop mental resilience to enable them to cope with the unique exposure to extreme stress (and potential trauma) that our operators and families must live with. Open to serving and retired personnel (and dependants) from across the military as well as SO15, Dashboard is widely regarded as 'best practice'; indeed, the overwhelmingly positive feedback from those who have attended speaks volumes about Dashboard's utility as a suite of 'tools' to support mental wellbeing.*

*With the COVID now [hopefully] behind us, Felix Fund has been able to focus on re-generating the levels of support that it enjoyed pre-pandemic. Corporate sponsorship and numerous fundraising events have enabled the charity to build the funds that it desperately needs to ensure its longevity as the charitable focal point for the EOD and Search community. Much consideration has gone into ensuring that every penny counts, with funds secured to ensure maximum savings and investment returns against minimal risk.*

*The cost of living crisis has seen an up-tick in requests for financial support. Delivering on one of its key charitable objectives, Felix Fund has been able to provide tangible financial assistance to those in need (examples include education and course fees, grants for sporting endeavours, purchases of equipment for disabled veterans and general support to those undergoing hardship.*

*Felix Fund is constantly looking for ways to innovate. Looking to the future, the charity seeks to expand its Dashboard programme to fulfil increasing requests for attendance and to enhance and promote its digital platforms to elevate exposure and generate greater awareness. In addition, the employment of a dedicated Fundraising Manager has provided much greater reach, enabling the CEO to focus on strategic aims and objectives.*




Karl Frankland  
Co-founder and Chairman  
Felix Fund - The Bomb Disposal Charity

# FELIX FUND

THE BOMB DISPOSAL CHARITY

## Our Year in Numbers

We ran  **10** residential Dashboard courses enabling over **100** individuals to attend

We ran  **6** onsite Dashboard courses at various locations enabling **70+** serving personnel to attend the training

We ran a trial Spouses or Partner Dashboard weekend, which saw **10** wives/partners attend

## Followers on

(at the end of this financial year)



Facebook

**4,517**



Twitter

**2,207**



Instagram

**1,316**



LinkedIn

**1,179**



Our website

**14,784**

We supported serving personnel, veterans and dependent family members with grants totalling over



**£30,000**

Our e-newsletter was distributed to over

**1,000**  
contacts



# How we Have Helped in 2022/2023

During 2022/23 Felix Fund has once again focused on helping with the continued increase in poor mental health among serving personnel and veterans. The Dashboard program continues to evolve with increased take up for the week long residential course which has seen us add additional places to many of the dates over the past year. The onsite variation goes from strength to strength with regular dates set for; Carver Barracks, Wimbish, DTXG in Plymouth and initial courses run at 521 Sqn in Northolt and 321 Sqn in Northern Ireland. Increased enquiries and demand will see these delivered further afield in the coming year.

In October 2022 we ran a Spouses or Partners Dashboard weekend, which saw ten wives and partners benefit from their own bespoke training. Following the success of this we will look to run two of these weekends in 2023.

Alongside the preventative stress training Felix Fund continues to provide financial assistance to serving personnel, veterans, and their dependent family members, in times of need.

Examples of help during this financial year include:

Funding towards safety equipment for a serving soldier who had been selected for the Army American football team. No funding was available for the appropriate kit, and this enabled him to join the team.

Help for a soldier's wife to move from service housing into housing association accommodation following the break up of their marriage. She had to move by a certain date or lose the house. Felix Fund provided the funds to move her and her son into their new home.

Covering the cost of white goods for a former soldier. He was diagnosed with PTSD and returned to the UK to live, but walking away from his life and business overseas reduced his income dramatically. Helping him furnish his new home helped reduce some of the pressure and enabled him to concentrate on getting the care and support he needed.

A veteran had ended up facing a long stay in hospital following an accident. His only means of communication, his mobile phone was stolen. Felix Fund was approached to purchase a replacement for him. This enabled him to remain in contact with family and friends as he recuperated.

Felix Fund has always prided itself on how quickly we can react to requests for help, and we are even able to turn urgent grants around in a matter of hours. For a small charity we continue to make a significant difference to the community we serve.

# Key Moments of our Year

April 2022

11 years supporting the EOD & Search communities

May 2022

Clive Smith, former RE attended the Veterans Conference & Games in Israel

June 2022

40th Anniversary of the Falklands War was marked with a joint event with ABF – The Soldiers Charity

July 2022

AT 100 event was held at Kineton

August 2022

Matt Middleditch becomes an Ambassador of Felix Fund

September 2022

We reviewed all merchandise and planned new items to be sourced

October 2022

We held a Spouses Dashboard weekend

November 2022

We marked Remembrance Sunday

December 2022

Felix Fund attended the Fulmination Event

January 2023

The post of Fundraising Manager was advertised

February 2023

Felix Fund joined the Mosaic grant system run by SSAFA

March 2023

Our first podcast was recorded

April 2023

Carmen Middleditch started as our new Fundraising Manager

# Our Strategic Plan

## Objectives

In 2022/23 Felix Fund's objectives were:

Expanding the onsite Dashboard program, where we deliver 2-day training courses to particular regiments, squadrons, or units

Developing a greater digital presence through the tutorial videos and other vehicles

Being the first charity anyone who has been involved with EOD & Search duties thinks of to support

To continue to roll out the Dashboard program to serving personnel and veterans with specific funding received from trusts and other grants

To maintain and increase support from across all income streams

To expand the number of individuals we help annually

Increasing awareness of the work of the charity within the wider EOD & Search communities

To develop a Dashboard program for spouses and partners

Generally helping to improve the wellbeing of all personnel who are involved or who have been involved with EOD & Search duties

## How we Achieved This

We will achieve these objectives through:

The engagement of a Fundraising Manager

Providing trustees and staff with appropriate fundraising training

All trustees agree to support major events whenever possible

The trustees to identify potential patrons and donors from their personal and professional networks

The CEO to provide reports on large fundraising events to the trustees

Expand Felix Fund's volunteer infrastructure to support fundraising activities by recruiting fundraising volunteers

# Future Plans

Felix Fund has now been in existence for 12 years and our vision remains that by 2025 we will be a national charity fully resourced to administer the well-being needs of the UK's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Search communities, past, present, and future.

Our future activities will include:

With the appointment of a Fundraising Manager, we should see an increase in income from across all streams

Continued growth of social media activity, increased use of the website and wider distribution of the quarterly E-newsletter across all streams

To run a survey of both those already known to Felix Fund and those we have not yet reached to ascertain what the EOD & Search communities need from Felix Fund

To increase awareness of the work of the charity within the wider EOD & Search communities

To continue to increase support from the general public

To deliver the variations of the Dashboard training; residential, onsite and spouse/partners versions

To maintain and increase support from across all income streams

To expand the number of individuals we help annually

To hold a Gala Dinner in September 2023

To relaunch the Felix Festival in September 2023

# Who We Are

Melanie Moughton – Chief Executive Officer  
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Carmen Middleditch – Fundraising Manager  
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Hayley Paintin - Administrative Assistant  
Email: [hayley@felixfund.org.uk](mailto:hayley@felixfund.org.uk)

Elaine Fisher - Treasurer

## Trustees

Brig Karl Frankland late RLC - Chairman  
Col Daniel Reyland late RLC  
Brig (Retd) Gareth Collett, CBE late RLC  
Capt Alan Nekrews, QGM RN  
WO1 RSM Paul Clark RE  
SSgt Kenny Scott RE

## Ambassadors

Brig Adam McRae, MBE late RLC  
Lt Col (Retd) Matthew Middleditch, QGM  
Mr David Hunkin OBE

## Patron

Adnan Sarwar — Former Royal Engineer (33 EOD), award-winning writer, editor, filmmaker & television presenter.



# Thank You

Felix Fund can only continue to help this unique group of men and women through the regular support and donations we receive from you all. Following the pandemic, we have all been faced with the cost of living crisis, which has had a profound effect on charitable giving. Here at Felix Fund, we are proud to have maintained a level of business of usual and by working with you all on fundraising we are in a strong position going forward.

We thank all of you who have supported the charity in 2022/23, we appreciate you all.

## How to Get Involved

Anyone interested in becoming involved with Felix Fund can find information on our website [www.felixfund.org.uk](http://www.felixfund.org.uk) or by contacting head office on 07713 752901 or [enquiries@felixfund.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@felixfund.org.uk)

