

Newport Harbour Commissioners

ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2018

LEGAL STATUS

The Newport Harbour Commissioners is a body created by Statute as enshrined in the Newport (South Wales) Harbour Acts and Orders 1836 to 2003. The Commissioner's area of jurisdiction, as defined in the Newport (Monmouthshire) Harbour Act 1890, is as follows:

“Those parts of the Bristol Channel and Rivers Usk and Ebbw which lie between an imaginary line drawn in a S.79°W. true direction from Goldcliff until it meets the shore of the Bristol Channel eastward of the Peterstone Wentlooge Church and the bridge over the River Usk at Newbridge and the bridge carrying the South Wales Railway of the Great Western Railway Company over the River Ebbw and the banks and shores of such parts of the said channel and rivers and any works on such banks and shores and all streams, pools, creeks, havens, bays and inlets within those limits”.

The key responsibilities of the Commissioners are as follows:

A) Safety and navigation

- Regulation of navigation within statutory Harbour limits
- Provision of a pilotage service
- Local lighthouse authority establishing and maintaining lights and marks
- Removal of wrecks
- Hydrographic surveying of Harbour area

B) Enforcement

- To make and enforce byelaws relating to the conduct of vessels
- To act upon observations of contracted Marine staff and stakeholders to ensure compliance with byelaws

C) Pollution

- Development of Harbour oil spill contingency plans Environmental
- Management Duties under Habitats Directive to review consents

D) Other

- Prepare Ports Contingency Plans
- Comply with Guide for Good Governance for Trust Ports

An annual detailed review of the Commissioner's compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code is undertaken by the Designated Person, an independent expert on the Code. The last review took place in January 2018, and no major deviances from the Code were reported. The 3-yearly compliance confirmation was remitted to MCA.

FINANCIAL POSITION

The financial position of the Commissioners is satisfactory. The annual income rose to £210,368 for the year ended 31 March 2018, an increase of 5%. This was due to an increase in the volume of shipping in the area. Total reserves disclosed in the Balance Sheet at 31 March 2017 totalled £218,342.

The Commissioners continue to keep the level of Harbour Dues under constant review.

KEY MATTERS ARISING DURING THE YEAR

i) Local Issues

- Three new Commissioners were appointed and a further Commissioner reappointed during the year. These were all high-calibre appointments that will maintain the skills and experience required
- The dredged Channel has remained in a good condition throughout the year
- The lighting arrangements at the East Usk Lighthouse will be modified and updated, in accordance with advice from Trinity House and after a consultation with stakeholders and the pilots. The light characteristics will be changed (removal of the wide sector lights) and a new LED Port Entry Light installed to provide the narrow sector lights which will be maintained providing channel entry guidance
- No significant issues have occurred with the channel buoys or shore lights and beacons. Two new buoys were purchased in accordance with the plans to keep all shipping aids fully up-to-date and operational.
- The Service Level Agreement between Associated British Ports and the Newport Harbour Commissioners that covers the provision of Pilotage Services and Harbour Master Duties remains unaltered but under consideration
- Constructive dialogue with the Commissioner's stakeholders continued throughout the period, including ABP and the River berth operators. Improvements to procedures have been suggested and implemented
- A full hydrographic study of the main body of the River Usk was undertaken in November 2016. The results of this survey showed the River to be stable.

ii) Matters of national importance**M4 Relief Road**

As at today's date, the results of the Public Enquiry into the proposed new M4 is awaited. The Commissioners have been able to withdraw their objection to the proposed scheme base upon assurances from the Welsh Government.

Tidal Lagoon

It seems extremely unlikely that a Tidal Lagoon will be constructed next to Newport Harbour in the foreseeable future, but the Commissioners will keep this matter under constant review.

Secretary to the Newport Harbour Commissioners
NOVEMBER 2018