

Harbour Authority Building • Scapa • Orkney • KW15 1SD

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Dear Sir/Madam

**STATUTORY CONSULTATION: ORKNEY ISLANDS COUNCIL HARBOUR AUTHORITY
GENERAL DIRECTIONS**

Orkney Islands Council as Statutory Harbour Authority is writing to inform you of proposed changes to the regulatory framework governing operations within Orkney Harbours through the introduction of General Directions (GDs). As a key stakeholder in the use of our waters, whether as a commercial operator, recreational user, or community partner, we are seeking your views on these proposals.

The primary aim of the GDs is to enhance navigational safety, environmental stewardship, and operational efficiency across Orkney's diverse maritime environment. These Directions will allow the Harbour Authority to respond more dynamically to evolving conditions and ensure a safe, fair, and consistent approach to harbour management.

The proposed GDs will apply to all harbour areas under Orkney Islands Council jurisdiction and will affect a wide range of users.

We acknowledge that the impact of these Directions will vary depending on the nature of your operations. Our goal is to implement a framework that supports growth, ensures safety, and respects the needs of all users.

A full draft of the proposed General Directions is enclosed and available at <https://www.orkneyharbours.com/> We encourage you to review the document and share your views by the **23rd of June 2025**.

Feedback can be submitted via:

Email: harbours@orkney.gov.uk Subject: **General Directions Consultation**

Post: General Directions Consultation
Orkney Islands Council, Marine Services
Harbour Authority Building
Scapa
Orkney
KW15 1SD

Orkney's maritime success depends on collaboration. Your input is important to us in shaping a safe, responsive, and inclusive harbour environment that works for everyone, from large commercial vessels to individual water sports users.

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your engagement.

Jim Buck FRIN
Head of Marine Services and Transportation & Harbour Master