



Marine  
Management  
Organisation

Harbour Orders  
Tyneside House  
Newcastle Business Park  
Newcastle Upon Tyne  
NE4 7YA

info@marinemanagement.org.uk  
+44 (0) 300 123 1032  
[www.gov.uk/mmo](http://www.gov.uk/mmo)

Lara Moore  
Ashfords LLP  
(by email only)

Your reference:  
Our reference: HRO/2022/00002

30 June 2026

Dear Ms Moore

**The Harbours Act 1964**  
**Poole Harbour Revision Order 2026**

1. The Marine Management Organisation (“the MMO”) informs you that consideration has been given to the application for the Poole Harbour Revision (“the Order”) for which you applied on behalf of Poole Harbour Commissioners (“the applicant”), under Section 14 of the Harbours Act 1964 (“the Act”) on 5 September 2022.

**Summary of Decision**

2. The MMO has authorised the making of the Order with amendments and modifications not affecting the character of the Order which it considers necessary and appropriate.
3. The Order grants the applicant modernised powers for general and special directions and provides clarification of the premises in Poole Harbour (“the Harbour”) for the efficient and economical operation, maintenance and improvement of the Harbour. The Order also includes provisions relating to constitution of the Commissioners, the establishment of advisory bodies, commercial activities, dredging, control of certain operations, provisions for works and bunkering.

**Context**

4. The applicant is Poole Harbour Commissioners, the statutory harbour authority responsible for the Harbour.
5. The applicant is responsible for the administration, maintenance, and improvement of the Harbour.
6. The Harbour is located on the Dorset coastline, in the south of England.
7. The Harbour is used by commercial, recreational and military vessels.
8. The applicant conducted a review of their local legislation and identified a need to modernise their powers for the effective management of the Harbour.



# Marine Management Organisation

9. The Order is sought to achieve various objects specified in Schedule 2 to the Act, which are listed in Annex II to this letter.

## Application procedure

10. On 5 September 2022 an application for the Order was submitted to the MMO by Ashfords LLP on behalf of the applicant.
11. Notice of the application for the Order was advertised in the London Gazette on 9 August 2023 as well as in the Bournemouth Echo on 9 August 2023 and 16 August 2023.
12. MMO consulted the following organisations, their responses are summarised below:

Organisation	Response received and actions
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council	No response was received.
British Ports Association ("BPA")	The BPA supported the application.
Chamber of Shipping	No response was received.
The Crown Estate ("TCE")	TCE had no objections to the application.
Department for Transport ("DfT")	DfT had no objections to the Order.
Health and Safety Executive	No response was received.
Maritime and Coastguard Agency ("MCA")	MCA had no objections to the application.
Royal Yachting Association ("RYA")	RYA had no objections to the application.
Trinity House ("TH")	TH had no objections to the application.
UK Major Ports Group	No response was received.
Ministry of Defence ("MoD")	MoD had no objection to the application.

## Public representations

13. One objection was received within the statutory 42-day period provided for in Schedule 3 to the Act.
14. The objection related to the levy of charges and directions in the Order being applied to the chain ferry and slipways operated by the Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road and Ferry Company.
15. The objection was withdrawn on 28 November 2024 following discussions between the objector and the Commissioners, which resulted in amendments to the instrument to disapply provisions relating to the Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road and Ferry Company.



# Marine Management Organisation

## MMO consideration

16. Minor amendments were made to the provisions in the Order to be consistent with the wording in more recently laid Orders.
17. The applicant updated the map to note the location of harbour premises at the making of the Order.
18. The MMO has considered the application in relation to the South Marine Plan and is content that the application is in accordance with that marine plan.
19. Paragraph 19 of Schedule 3 to the Act provides that the MMO shall consider any Environmental Statement supplied with the application, the result of any consultations, any opinion under paragraph 16(5) and the result of any consultations with other European Economic Area states, any objections made and not withdrawn, any representations received and the report of any person who held an inquiry before making a determination where applicable.
20. Section 14(1) of the Act provides for an order to be made under this section (“a harbour revision order”) in relation to a harbour which is being improved, maintained or managed by a harbour authority in the exercise and performance of statutory powers and duties for achieving all or any of the objects set out in Schedule 2 to the Act.
21. By virtue of section 14(2)(a) a harbour revision order may not be made in relation to a harbour unless the MMO is satisfied that an appropriate written application has been made by the authority engaged in improving, maintaining or managing it, or by a person appearing to it to have a substantial interest or body representative of persons appearing to it to have such an interest.
22. By virtue of section 14(2)(b) a harbour revision order shall not be made in relation to a harbour unless the MMO is satisfied that the making of the order is desirable in the interests of securing the improvement, maintenance or management of the harbour in an efficient and economical manner, or of facilitating the efficient and economical transport of goods or passengers by sea or in the interests of the recreational use of sea-going ships.

## MMO’s decision

23. The MMO is satisfied that the Order meets the requirements of section 14(1) and 14(2)(a) of the Act.
24. The MMO is satisfied for the reasons set out by the applicant in their statement of support, and summarised above, that the making of the Order (and each provision of the Order) is desirable for the purposes of section 14(2)(a) and (b) of the Act and should be made.
25. The MMO authorises the making of the Order with amendments and modifications which it considers necessary and appropriate but not substantially affecting the character of the Order.



Marine  
Management  
Organisation

### Challenges to decisions

26. Information on the right to challenge this decision is set out in the Annex I to this letter.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D Morris".

David Morris  
Marine Licensing Case Officer

D +44 (0)208 026 5175

E [david.morris@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:david.morris@marinemanagement.org.uk)



Marine  
Management  
Organisation

## Annex I

### **Right to challenge decisions**

#### **Right to challenge orders made under sections 14 and 16 of the Harbours Act 1964**

Any person who desires to question the making of the Order on the ground that there was no power to make the Order or that a requirement of the Harbours Act 1964 was not complied with in relation to the Order, may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order becomes operative make an application for the purpose to the High Court or the Court of Session, as the case may be.

**A person who thinks they may have grounds for challenging the decision to make the Order is advised to seek legal advice before taking any action.**



## Annex II

### **Objects for whose achievement Harbour Revision Orders may be made within the Harbours Act 1964, Schedule 2**

Paragraph 3: "Varying or abolishing duties or powers imposed or conferred on the authority by a statutory provision of local application affecting the harbour, being duties or powers imposed or conferred for the purpose of—

- (a) improving, maintaining or managing the harbour;
- (b) marking or lighting the harbour, raising wrecks therein or otherwise making safe the navigation thereof; or
- (c) regulating the carrying out by others in connection with the harbour of harbour operations or the carrying on by others of activities on harbour land."

Paragraph 4: "Imposing or conferring on the authority, for the purpose aforesaid, duties or powers (including powers to make byelaws), either in addition to, or in substitution for, duties or powers imposed or conferred as mentioned in paragraph 3 above."

Paragraph 6: "Settling (either for all purposes or limited purposes) the limits within which the authority are to have jurisdiction or altering (either for all purposes or for limited purposes) such limits as previously settled."

Paragraph 9B: "Empowering the authority to delegate the performance of any functions of the authority except- (a) a duty imposed on the authority by or under any enactment; (b) the making of byelaws; (c) the levying of ships, passenger and goods dues; (d) the appointment of harbour, dock and pier masters; (e) the nomination of persons to act as constables; (f) functions relating to the laying down of buoys, the erection of lighthouses and the exhibition of lights, beacons and seamarks, so far as those functions are exercisable for the purposes of the safety of navigation."

Paragraph 11: "Empowering the authority to levy at the harbour charges other than ship, passenger and goods dues or varying or abolishing charges (other than aforesaid) levied by them at the harbour".

Paragraph 12: "Securing the efficient collection of charges levied by the authority at the harbour and specifying the times at which and the persons by whom such charges are to be paid."

Paragraph 13: "Regulating the application of moneys in the nature of revenue received by the authority and securing that the financial affairs of the authority are properly managed."

Paragraph 16A: "Imposing or conferring on the authority duties or powers (including powers to make byelaws) for the conservation of the natural beauty of all or any part of the harbour or of any of the fauna, flora or geological or physiographical features in the harbour and all other natural features."

Paragraph 17: "Any object which, though not falling within any of the foregoing paragraphs, appears to the appropriate Minister to be one the achievement of which will conduce to the efficient functioning of the harbour."