

Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Navigation Safety Branch

Date: 2nd February 2026
Officer: Cllr Jon Andrews
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**PORTS & MARINE FACILITIES SAFETY CODE
COMPLIANCE STATEMENT – 2026 TO 2028**

Dear Sir or Madam

In accordance with Marine Information Note MIN 641(M) (Amendment 1), I write in my capacity as Duty Holder on behalf of Dorset Council to formally declare compliance with the Ports & Marine Facilities Safety Code (April 2025) for the 2026–2028 compliance period.

Dorset Council is the Statutory Harbour Authority for the municipal ports of Weymouth, Bridport (West Bay) and Lyme Regis. As required by the Ports & Marine Facilities Safety Code, Dorset Council has appointed a named Duty Holder who is accountable for ensuring compliance with the Code and for the effective management of marine safety across these harbours.

I, Councillor Jon Andrews, Cabinet Member for Place Commissioned Services, am the appointed Duty Holder for Dorset Council's harbour functions. I accept this responsibility and confirm that appropriate governance, management, assurance and resourcing arrangements are in place to ensure compliance with the Ports & Marine Facilities Safety Code.

This declaration of compliance applies to the following Dorset Council statutory harbours:

- Bridport Harbour (West Bay)
- Lyme Regis Harbour
- Weymouth Harbour

These harbours are operated under Dorset Council's established harbour governance framework, which provides consistent oversight, assurance and accountability for marine safety, whilst allowing arrangements that are proportionate to the size, nature and operational risk profile of each harbour.

I confirm that all ten elements of the Ports & Marine Facilities Safety Code have been reviewed and assessed for applicability across the above-named harbours. The requirements of the Code have been implemented in a proportionate and risk-based manner, consistent with the Code and its associated Guide to Good Practice. Where elements of the Code are not relevant to a particular harbour, such as pilotage or large-scale commercial operations, these have been formally scoped out on the basis of risk assessment and the nature of local activities.

Each harbour operates a documented and auditable Marine Safety Management System. Weymouth Harbour, Bridport Harbour (West Bay) and Lyme Regis Harbour each maintain their own harbour-specific Marine Safety Management System, developed to reflect their individual

statutory duties, operational characteristics and risk profiles. Each Marine Safety Management System is aligned with the Ports & Marine Facilities Safety Code, is based on formal risk assessment, and is supported by appropriate policies, procedures and freestanding plans. Whilst tailored to local circumstances, these systems are governed through Dorset Council's common harbour governance arrangements, ensuring consistency of standards, oversight and assurance.

A suitably qualified and experienced external Designated Person has been appointed to provide me, as Duty Holder, with independent assurance that the Marine Safety Management Systems are operating effectively and in compliance with the Code. The Designated Person is independent of operational harbour management, has direct access to the Duty Holder, and undertakes regular audits and reviews across all three harbours, reporting findings and recommendations through Dorset Council's established governance and committee arrangements.

A Marine Safety Plan is in place for Dorset Council's statutory harbour functions and is reviewed on a three-yearly cycle aligned with the Ports & Marine Facilities Safety Code compliance exercise. Performance against the Marine Safety Plan and the Marine Safety Management Systems is monitored through ongoing review, incident and near-miss reporting, independent audit and elected-member oversight.

I confirm that Dorset Council maintains effective arrangements for risk assessment, incident investigation, review and continuous improvement, including consideration of relevant Marine Accident Investigation Branch reports, Maritime and Coastguard Agency guidance and sector good practice. Dorset Council will continue to engage constructively with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and will cooperate fully with any Ports & Marine Facilities Safety Code Health Check should one be requested or offered during this compliance period.

On this basis, I formally confirm that Bridport Harbour (West Bay), Lyme Regis Harbour, and Weymouth Harbour are compliant with the relevant requirements of the Ports & Marine Facilities Safety Code for the 2026–2028 compliance period.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Jon Andrews
Cabinet Member for Place Commissioned Services
Duty Holder for Dorset Council Statutory Harbours
For and on behalf of Dorset Council