



PORTLAND HARBOUR AUTHORITY LIMITED



By virtue of section 16 of the Portland Harbour Revision Order 1997
Portland Harbour Authority Limited as the Harbour Authority
gives the following Direction:

GENERAL DIRECTION

No2 of 2023

OPERATION OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT IN PORTLAND HARBOUR

1. This Direction is given to any person having or taking command, charge, management or conduct for the time being of any personal watercraft (PWC) (as defined in paragraph 2) operating in or being launched into Portland Harbour. This Direction shall apply in Portland Inner Harbour and in specified parts of Portland Outer Harbour at all times. Portland Inner Harbour is that part of the harbour enclosed by the breakwaters.
2. For the purposes of this General Direction a “personal watercraft” means any watercraft propelled by a jet engine or other mechanical means of propulsion and steered either:
 - a) by means of a handlebar-operated linkage system (with or without a rudder at the stern).
 - b) by the person or persons riding the craft using his or their bodyweight for the purpose; or
 - c) by a combination of the methods referred to in (a) and (b) above and includes (but not limited to) watercraft generally referred to as **Jet-Skis, Wave runners, Wet bikes, E-Foils, PW's, Hydrofoils, Flite boards** and **Hovercraft**.
3. Before operating any personal watercraft in Portland Inner Harbour, any person to which this Direction is given, shall register their craft with the Harbour Authority, pay the appropriate fee and comply with the conditions of registration. Persons wishing to register their craft should telephone 01305 824044 for details.
4. Launching of personal watercraft in Portland Harbour is restricted to the **Ferrybridge slipway**, situated in the boatyard at Ferrybridge on the west side of the harbour. Launching of personal watercraft elsewhere in Portland Harbour is prohibited.
5. Personal watercraft may only transit to, and from, the Outer Harbour via ‘**New Channel**’ and the ‘**Recommended Route**’ through to the **North Ship Channel**. Personal watercraft are not permitted to operate in any other area of the Inner Harbour.
6. Personal watercraft are not to be operated in the Outer Harbour within the bounds of the 6-knot buoyed area of Newton's Cove, irrespective of whether or not the buoys are in place.
7. Personal watercraft are not to be operated at a speed of greater than 6 knots over the ground whilst using **New Channel**, Ferrybridge and within 150 metres of any breakwater.
8. Harbour Authority approved establishments may give instruction and coaching to persons using e-Foils in approved areas outside of the 6 knot areas.
9. For sake of clarity PWC's are now designated as ‘Watercraft’ as described in [The Merchant Shipping \(Watercraft\) Order 2023](#)
10. General Direction No 1 of 2012 is hereby revoked.
11. Failure to comply with this Direction is an offence and offenders may be prosecuted.

Chief Executive
Portland Harbour Authority Limited
14th November 2023

Owners, Operators, Agents, Masters, Yacht Clubs, and recreational sailing organisations are requested that this Direction is made known to all persons that use Portland Harbour.