

## NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

### INFORMATION NOTE No. 2

#### **The PLA Board and Navigational Management Team**

##### **Introduction**

The Port of London Authority (PLA), as a statutory Harbour Authority, is responsible for the management of navigational safety in the Port of London. It is obliged, under the requirements of the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) to maintain a navigational safety management system (SMS) based on formal risk assessment.

##### **PLA Board**

Whilst the PLA involves port users and practitioners in continuing to develop and maintain the SMS, it is the PLA Board (as Duty Holder), which has ultimately responsible for navigational safety in the port.

The PLA Board delegates the statutory powers of the Harbour Master and responsibility for day to day navigational management decisions to the Chief Harbour Master, who in turn is supported by six specialist marine departments i.e.:

- Pilotage
- Vessel Traffic Services
- Harbour Master (Lower)
- Harbour Master (Upper)
- Hydrographic Services
- Marine Safety and Contingency Management

##### **Navigational Management Team**

These departmental managers, together with the Chief Harbour Master (CHM) form the PLA's Navigational Management Team (NMT). NMT has a broad remit in respect of the management of marine operations. Its Terms of Reference are summarised below.

1. Manage marine operations and implement conservancy measures in accordance with PLA policies as approved by the Board.
2. Review and take appropriate action in respect of:
  - all safety incidents and navigational occurrences, and the associated recommendations of the investigating Harbour Master and/or the subsequent Navigational Advisory Panel;
  - any identified trends in the nature or frequency of safety incidents and navigational occurrences;
  - the programmed assessment of hazards and associated risk control measures; and
  - the outcomes of any navigational, environmental or marine operations risk assessments.

3. Develop for approval by the Board where appropriate, draft strategy, policies, plans and budgets in respect of navigational and conservancy issues and marine operations.
4. Oversee the regular review of PLA's marine regulatory and enforcement framework in order to ensure its continuing fitness for purpose.
5. Monitor the development of operational procedures, guidelines, recommendations or "lessons learned" arising from (local or national) incident investigations and programmed reviews of hazards and risk control measures.
6. Monitor navigational safety performance measures.
7. Continue to develop and expand the PLA's understanding of the river and estuarine environment and use this knowledge to manage marine operations in accordance with best environmental practice.
8. Keep under review best national practice as prescribed in the PMSC Guide to Good Practice and to ensure compliance within the PLA where appropriate.

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