

## SAFETY BULLETIN No.3 of 2020

# COVID-19 MOORING INSPECTIONS

*This Safety Bulletin replaces No. 2 of 2020, which is hereby cancelled*

The Port of London Authority (PLA) would like to remind all commercial operators and recreational Clubs that even during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, it is of vital importance to ensure that moorings are appropriately inspected and tended at regular intervals. This follows a recent incident at Chiswick Pier, where a small commercial passenger vessel broke free from its moorings and made contact with the pier's brow after drifting a considerable distance.

Whilst we appreciate that commercial operators have either limited numbers of employees or that their staff have been furloughed, it is vital vessel moorings are attended to regularly to ensure that incidents like the one described are prevented.

Equally, while recreational Clubs may have closed their clubhouse doors, it is again important that the moorings of vessels on Club moorings or in marinas, are regularly checked by a suitable representative from the Club during the lockdown period. Owners of vessels on private moorings should do the same, if essential and if there is no viable alternative, whilst respecting the Government guidelines. To clarify, this means transit on the water to check moorings should be kept to an absolute minimum amount of time as possible.

The PLA also recommends that all houseboat residents use this time to ensure that mooring lines and fenders are examined and meet best practice. The PLA's Houseboat Mooring Guidance provides houseboat residents advice on ensuring they comply with industry best practice. The guidance document is downloadable here:

<http://www.pla.co.uk/assets/hmg191216.pdf>.

The PLA would like to thank you for your assistance in limiting operations and to all leisure users for complying with the recreational restrictions notice to mariners (No. 6 of 2020). Full details can be found here:

<http://pla.co.uk/assets/6of2020-covid-19restrictions-recreationleisureactivities.pdf>.

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**(UPPER)**



Telephone calls, VHF radio traffic, CCTV and radar traffic images may be recorded in the VTS Centres at Gravesend and Woolwich

