

ENFORCEMENT & PROSECUTION POLICY

The Board of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority and Carlingford Lough Commission (Duty Holders) is responsible under the Port Marine Safety Code for the effective enforcement of regulations made and direction given to assist in managing marine operations and ensuring safety of navigation within the lough.

Enforcement underpins navigational safety by ensuring compliance with such regulations and directions: it requires effective surveillance, incident investigation, and leads, where appropriate, to sanctions imposed either by the board or by the Courts.

Where necessary, and where empowered, the Board will prosecute offenders for committing offences, including those set out in the Warrenpoint Harbour Act and Orders and in Ancillary regulations and Byelaws.

Warrenpoint Harbour Authority and Carlingford lough Commission Policy is to:

- Maintain through regular review, a relevant and effective regulatory framework, consistent with national legislation, ancillary regulation and byelaws
- Ensure that regulations and associated guidance are widely promulgated within Warrenpoint Harbour's and Carlingford Lough Commission's Area of Jurisdiction
- Develop and maintain effective enforcement procedures that support the enforcement process, and meet the requirements of the Marine Safety Management System in respect of identifying, promulgating and making good use of any lessons learned
- Ensure that all staff involved in incident investigation, or who are required to follow Warrenpoint Harbour and Carlingford Lough Commission enforcement procedures, receive effective and relevant training.
- Maintain an effective surveillance and spot check regime, to monitor compliance with, and detect breaches of, relevant national regulation. Respond to breaches of regulations, by imposing a sanction appropriate to the circumstances, or initiating a prosecution where the facts warrant.