



COWES HARBOUR COMMISSION

COWES HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS DUTIES OF COMMISSIONERS

1. **Generally**

All Commissioners should adhere to the following principles in the conduct of the Commissioners' business. Commissioners must fully understand their duties and responsibilities and should familiarise themselves with the contents of the Guide to Good Governance issued by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions in January 2000.

2. **Independence**

The Commissioners are an independent statutory body. All Commissioners are appointed to act independently in the best interests of the Commissioners' harbour undertaking and all its stakeholders both present and future.

3. **Accountability**

Commissioners are accountable for their decisions and actions to all stakeholders of the Commissioners' harbour undertaking and should submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

4. **Openness**

Commissioners should be as open as possible with all stakeholders about the decisions and actions they take. They should publicise the reasons for their decisions and restrict information only to the extent that matters of commercial confidentiality or matters of personal confidentiality (i.e. matters relating to an individual Commissioner or a member of staff) are involved.

5. Selflessness

Commissioners should take decisions solely in terms of the interests of stakeholders of the Commissioners' harbour undertaking. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family and friends or any group or organisation with whom they are associated.

6. Integrity

Commissioners should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

7. Objectivity

In carrying out the Commissioners' business, including making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, Commissioners should make choices on merit.

8. Honesty

Commissioners have a duty to declare any private interests which might influence their duties as Commissioners, and to take steps to resolve any conflict arising, in a way that protects the interest of stakeholders of the Commissioners' harbour undertaking.

9. Leadership

Commissioners should promote and support these principles (and ensure that they are adopted by fellow Commissioners) by leadership and example.

10. Personal Liability

Each Commissioner has a duty of care to the Commissioners' undertaking. However, the Commissioners have decided that, as a matter of policy, Commissioners will be effectively indemnified out of the Commissioners' resources for all actions taken within their powers. Accordingly, where a Commissioner has acted honestly, reasonably, in good faith and without negligence he or she will not have to meet out of his or her personal resources any personal civil liability which is incurred in the execution or purported execution of his or her functions as a Commissioner, except where that Commissioner has acted recklessly.

11. Newly appointed Commissioners.

Commissioners have a duty to ensure that any newly appointed Commissioner is provided with clear information on all aspects of his or her duties as a Commissioner.