

# Public Statement



## Coronavirus (Covid-19)

The Chairman of the Crouch Harbour Authority, Harbourmaster and Designated Person have discussed the risks of Coronavirus on the statutory duties and operations of the authority and have agreed after carrying out risk assessment to implement a contingency plan.

The Crouch Harbour Authority is a Statutory Harbour Authority that has a responsibility to maintain ‘Open port’ duty. It is also a competent harbour authority providing pilotage services to commercial shipping which contribute to supplies and the logistics chain of the United Kingdom.

Advice and recommendations are being taken from Government, Ports Associations, and the UK Harbourmasters Association.

In maintaining open port duty, the responsibility of a pilotage service and the ability to respond to incidents in the authority’s limits the authority needs to take measures to protect its staff, equipment and assets that are needed to carry out operations.

As of 09 March 2020 the authority agreed to stand the harbourmaster down from public or external meetings, postpone advisory and external meetings separate other key staff in work places who maintain harbour patrols and pilot services. This action also includes pilots, the designated person and may include limiting office hours when the harbour office is open to the public. If this is the case a notice will be displayed on the door. Ships entering the port are now required to submit a [Maritime Declaration of Health \(MDH\)](#) – a document from the International Health Regulations that contains information about health on board a ship.

The Chairman has discussed with the Finance and Estates Committee that sufficient funds are available and will be accounted for that the authority may need to use from in dealing with the impact of Coronavirus.

This may result in a delay in dealing any routine enquiries. We ask your understanding in this matter as we all deal with the impact of the virus.

**Doug MacEwen**  
Chairman of the Crouch Harbour Authority

**Mike Robarts**  
Director, Ocean Ensign Ltd  
Appointed Designated Person