

The Harbour Bill presents a significant opportunity to regulate health and safety as well as public health. Public confidence is at a all time low.

Currently there is no department accountable for the export and import of goods at each port. The public is frustrated as both DFI and DERRA appear to have abdicated responsibility. For example, I recently enquired about the substances being sprayed at Warrenpoint Port and was directed to contact the company directly. This should not be the responsibility of a member of the public.

An independent regulatory body is required to oversee this process, ensuring that the health of the local community is safeguarded. This body should consult with all stakeholders including the local community.

The bill must also ensure that the port's assets are not privatised at any stage

Jim Boylan