



FAO: Clerk to the Committee for Infrastructure

Via Email: committee.infrastructure@niassembly.gov.uk

26 August 2026

Dear Clerk,

RE: NIMO response – Harbours Bill Call for Evidence

NI Maritime & Offshore (NIMO) is a regional cluster focused on realising commercial opportunities in the maritime and offshore sectors for the benefit of Northern Ireland. The cluster was officially launched in April 2024 and is growing steadily, representing approximately 65 members, many of whom are Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. NIMO's mission is *"To connect and elevate the Maritime and Offshore sectors in Northern Ireland, fostering collaboration, innovation, and sustainable economic growth our members and these sectors."*

We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the Committee for Infrastructure's consideration of the Harbours Bill and recognises the importance of ensuring Northern Ireland's Trust Ports have a framework that enables them to respond to the opportunities ahead. Northern Ireland's maritime and offshore sector is entering an exciting period, with major infrastructure investment and new opportunities emerging across the blue economy. Ports are fundamental to this opportunity, providing the infrastructure and connectivity required to support offshore wind, maritime operations, manufacturing, logistics and the wider supply chain.

NIMO therefore welcomes the reforms proposed for Northern Ireland's Trust Ports. A modern and effective framework can help create the conditions for long-term investment, enabling ports and businesses to plan with certainty and respond to emerging opportunities.

This is particularly relevant to the growth of offshore wind. NIMO's members are already working in the UK, EU and across the globe to develop and deliver products, services and capabilities to the maritime and offshore supply chain. The availability of appropriate port infrastructure is an important enabler of future growth for Northern Ireland. NIMO believes that we have untapped potential across these sectors and that the key to realising this success is collaboration between industry, government and other stakeholders.

The proposed reforms also have relevance beyond individual ports. Greater investment and capability across Northern Ireland's maritime infrastructure can strengthen local supply chains, support skills and employment, and help position Northern Ireland to capture a greater share of the economic opportunities associated with the growing maritime and offshore sectors.

NIMO also recognises the importance of maintaining appropriate governance and accountability. Supporting investment should go hand in hand with responsible stewardship and a continued focus on the wider benefit to Northern Ireland. Progressing the Harbours Bill within the current mandate would provide certainty for industry, helping to create the conditions for continued investment.

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NIMO broadly supports the principles underpinning the Harbours Bill and believes the reforms can play an important role in helping Northern Ireland build on its rich maritime heritage.

Yours sincerely,

Kerry Muldoon

Executive Director, NI Maritime & Offshore