



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
AND SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY**

Response to Call for Evidence on the Harbours Bill

Queen's University Belfast welcomes the introduction of the Harbours Bill and the opportunity to contribute to the Committee for Infrastructure's scrutiny of the Bill.

Throughout over 180 years of teaching and research, Queen's has been a constant, enduring and stable presence through significant social, political, constitutional and economic change.

During this time, the University has witnessed the evolution of ports across Northern Ireland and beyond, and while much has changed, not least over the last decade with COVID-19, Brexit and conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, our geography ensures the continued strategic importance of our harbours and ports to trade, connectivity and economic prosperity.

As an anchor institution in Northern Ireland contributing over £3.35bn to the economy annually, we support measures to drive economic growth, long-term planning and investment.

The University welcomes and supports the Harbours Bill and its objective of modernising the legislative and governance framework for Trust Ports. The proposed changes will help ensure that our ports are equipped to respond to future opportunities and challenges and continue to be a gateway to trade and sustainable economic growth.

The University has a significant presence in the Belfast Harbour area through AMIC Harbour (formerly the Northern Ireland Advanced Composites and Engineering Centre) and the Centre for Secure Information Technologies (CSIT), alongside a range of other facilities, research activities and partnerships that support innovation, skills development and collaboration between industry, government and academia.

The continued development and evolution of our ports and harbours is therefore closely aligned with the wider success of Queen's University and the economic success of Northern Ireland. For these reasons, Queen's University Belfast supports the objectives of the Harbours Bill and welcomes the measures contained within in.

If you have any further questions, please contact publicaffairs@qub.ac.uk