

Visit Belfast response to CFI Call for Evidence

Submission by email: committee.infrastructure@niassembly.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Harbours Bill Call for Evidence

Visit Belfast represents more than 500 tourism businesses and services across Belfast and provides an extensive range of marketing platforms for tourism businesses to promote their products and services to the growing numbers of visitors to the city region.

Visit Belfast's core purpose is to create and service visitors for Belfast and Northern Ireland to generate economic benefit and inclusive growth, creating jobs and prosperity for the city region, and enabling Belfast to become a more sustainable place to visit, meet and live in.

Visit Belfast welcomes the chance to respond to the Committee for Infrastructure's Call for Evidence for the Harbours Bill, which is now in Committee Stage.

We believe the legislation's stated aim aligns with our objectives to support Belfast's economic growth, and Northern Ireland more widely. As an organisation promoting tourism to Belfast City Region, we are keenly aware of the important role played by Belfast Harbour and how Trust Ports are key gateways through which tourists and visitors come through to boost the local economy.

The Harbours Bill seeks to modernise governance frameworks for Trust Ports in Northern Ireland. We believe these legislative changes will support Belfast Harbour and the other Trust Ports in their ongoing roles in growing the economy by investing in facilities that encourage tourism and open up new trade opportunities.

As Belfast's official Destination Marketing Management Organisation (DMMO), Visit Belfast is focused on attracting more visitors to the city. As such, we recognise that Belfast Harbour is a thriving Trust Port, and a leading gateway and key economic hub for trade and tourism.

Cruise Belfast is a long-established marketing and visitor servicing partnership between Visit Belfast and Belfast Harbour which markets Belfast and Northern Ireland internationally as a leading cruise destination. Belfast is now the busiest cruise port on the island and the second busiest transit cruise port of call in the UK. Cruise tourism alone generates over £26 million annually for the local economy, bringing hundreds of thousands of visitors to the region each year and supporting businesses across the tourism and hospitality sectors.

Visit Belfast

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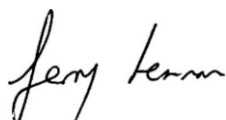
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Visit Belfast believe that the Harbours Bill will afford Trust Ports in Northern Ireland the operating environment needed to realise their ambitious plans and contribute to further economic growth in Belfast and further afield.

Yours sincerely,



Gerry Lennon
Chief Executive
Visit Belfast

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