

25th August 2026

Committee for Infrastructure Call for Evidence on Harbours Bill

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing on behalf of Women in Business NI Ltd (WiB) and welcome the opportunity to respond to the Committee for Infrastructure's Call for Evidence on the Harbours Bill.

With over 12,000 members, we have a diverse network of women who are all united in a common drive to build relationships, develop professional skills and ultimately, achieve success. Our vision is to equip women with the skills they need to gain employment, start their own business or develop their careers, rising into senior manager and leadership positions.

WiB recognises the aims of the Harbours Bill to enable greater flexibility and enhance the contribution which NI Trust Ports make to the regional economy.

We welcome that this will address some governance considerations which will clear the path to enable future ONS reclassification from a Public Non-Financial Corporation to a Private Non-Financial Corporation while not seeking to alter the Trust Port model which has proven highly successful.

WiB acknowledge Belfast Harbour's recently published 'Horizons of Opportunity' 2050 Masterplan which outlines a significant and long-term plan to invest in the Port and wider Harbour Estate. We also welcome Belfast Harbour's strong partnership with the third sector, and their commitment to inclusivity through initiatives such as their 'Women in Leadership' programme.

Belfast Harbour is not only a critical hub for trade and industry but also a key driver of employment across diverse sectors, including technology, logistics, tourism, and renewable energy.

Future reclassification will enable Belfast Harbour and other NI Trust Ports greater flexibility to borrow to invest to drive further growth and continue to make a positive social impact.

WiB would like to place on record our support for this legislation and encourage it to be advanced through the Assembly within the current Stormont mandate.

Yours Sincerely,



Roseann Kelly MBE

CEO of The WiB Group