



VTS Policy

The Authority has a statutory duty, as well as a responsibility under the Port Marine Safety Code, to regulate the safe movement of vessels traffic within the harbour and its approaches; to achieve this the Authority will:

- establish and continually review the provision of a Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) based on the outcome of formal risk assessment;
- ensure that a legal basis for the VTS is provided for and that it is operated in accordance with national and international law;
- determine the type and level of services to be provided by the VTS having regard to the objectives set;
- provide and maintain appropriate equipment and facilities standards for the VTS necessary to effectively accomplish the objectives set;
- ensure that the VTS is provided with sufficient staff, appropriately qualified, suitably trained and capable of performing the tasks required, taking into consideration the type and level of services in accordance with the UK Training and Certification Strategy;
- establish operating procedures for the VTS and for implementing emergency contingency plans;
- ensure that operators of the VTS are vested with the appropriate authority and delegations to fulfil their duties; and
- audit and review the performance of the VTS, recommending and facilitating improvements where necessary.