

2002 No. 40

HARBOURS

The Belfast Harbour Order (Northern Ireland) 2002

Made 12th February 2002

Affirmed by resolution of the Assembly 20th May 2002

Coming into operation in accordance with Article 1(1)

The Department for Regional Development(a) in exercise of the powers conferred by section 1(1) and (2) of, and Schedule 1 and Part I of Schedule 2 to, the Harbours Act (Northern Ireland) 1970(b) and now vested in it(c) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, after consultation with the Belfast Harbour Commissioners and such harbour authority or local authority which the Department considered likely to be affected by the Order in accordance with section 1(6) of that Act hereby makes the following Order:

Citation and commencement

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Belfast Harbour Order (Northern Ireland) 2002 and shall come into operation on the day after that on which it is affirmed by resolution of the Assembly.

(2) This Order shall be construed as one with the Belfast Harbour Acts and Orders 1847 to 1979(d).

(3) The Belfast Harbour Acts and Orders 1847 to 1979 and this Order may be cited together as the Belfast Harbour Acts and Orders 1847 to 2002.

Interpretation

2. In this Order—

“the Act of 1847” means the Belfast Harbour Act 1847(e);

“the Acts and Orders” means the Belfast Harbour Acts and Orders 1847 to 2002;

“the Commissioners” means the Belfast Harbour Commissioners incorporated under the Act of 1847;

“the Department” means the Department for Regional Development;

(a) S.I. 1999/283 (N.I. 1) Article 3(1)

(b) 1970 c. 1 (N.I.)

(c) S.R. 1999 No. 481 Article 6(d) and Schedule 4 Part IV

(d) 10 & 11 Vict. c. lii; 15 & 16 Vict. c. cxxi; 17 & 18 Vict. c. xlv; 33 & 34 Vict. c. xcvi; 34 & 35 Vict. c. xli; 45 & 46 Vict. c. clxxi; 46 & 47 Vict. c. lix; 56 & 57 Vict. c. xliv; 61 & 62 Vict. c. cv; 1 Edward 7 c. cxxxiii; 8 & 9 Geo. 5 c. xviii; 9 & 10 Geo. 5 c. ix; 12 & 13 Geo. 5 c. 1; 21 & 22 Geo. 5 c. 1; 2 Geo. 6 c. iv; 14 Geo 6 c. iv; 5 Eliz. 2 c. iv; 10 Eliz. 2 c. iii; 15 & 16 Eliz. 2 c.i; S.R. 1979 No. 32

(e) 10 & 11 Vict. c. lii

“the harbour undertaking” means the business of the Commissioners and includes all activities which the Commissioners are by the Acts and Orders authorised to carry on;

“the port” means the port of Belfast;

General powers and duties in respect of port

3.—(1) The Commissioners may take such steps from time to time as they consider necessary or expedient for the improvement, maintenance and management of the port and the accommodation and facilities afforded therein or in connection therewith.

(2) For those purposes, and without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), the Commissioners may—

- (a) improve, maintain, regulate, manage, mark and light the port and provide accommodation and port facilities therein;
- (b) construct, alter, demolish and reconstruct structures and works in the port;
- (c) lend money to any person for the purposes of any undertaking carried on by him or, where that person is a body corporate, any undertaking carried on by a subsidiary of that body corporate;
- (d) maintain such reserve funds as they think fit;
- (e) invest any sums not immediately required for the purposes of the harbour undertaking; and
- (f) do all other things which in their opinion are necessary or expedient to facilitate the proper carrying on or development of the harbour undertaking.

(3) This Article is without prejudice to any powers of the Commissioners under or by virtue of any other enactment (including any other provision of this Order).

Further powers with respect to land

4.—(1) The Commissioners may—

- (a) retain any land acquired by them for such time as they think fit; and
- (b) dispose of any land acquired by them which is no longer required for the purposes of their functions in such manner and for such consideration and on such terms and conditions as they think fit.

(2) The powers of the Commissioners under the sub-paragraph (1)(b) shall be exercisable in accordance with arrangements made by the Department.

(3) The Commissioners may for the purposes of the harbour undertaking manage, use or develop land belonging to them as they think fit.

(4) Any capital money received by the Commissioners in respect of any transaction under this Article shall be applied in or towards the repayment of monies borrowed by the Commissioners or for other purposes of the Commissioners for which capital money may properly be applied.

Subsidiaries

5.—(1) The Commissioners may form and promote a wholly-owned subsidiary for carrying on any activities which the Commissioners have power to carry on.

(2) The Commissioners shall secure that any company formed in exercise of the powers conferred by paragraph (1) remains such a wholly-owned subsidiary.

(3) The Commissioners may enter into arrangements with a company formed in exercise of the powers conferred by paragraph (1) for the transfer to that company from the Commissioners or from any other company so formed, in such manner and on such terms (including payments by any of the parties to the arrangements to any of them) as may be provided for by the arrangements, of any property, rights, liabilities or obligations of the Commissioners or of that other company, which are relevant to the carrying on of the activities to be carried on by the first-mentioned company.

Borrowing

6.—(1) The Commissioners may borrow money upon the security of all or any of the revenues and property of the Commissioners and by any method or methods they see fit.

(2) The total amount of monies borrowed under this Article and outstanding at any one time shall not exceed £45,000,000 or such greater amount as may be approved by the Department in writing.

(3) In calculating for the purposes of paragraph (2) the amount of money borrowed by the Commissioners and outstanding at any one time there shall be excluded any monies borrowed for use within 3 months of the date of borrowing for repayment of any sum for the time being outstanding by way of principal on any amount previously borrowed.

(4) Monies borrowed by the Commissioners under this Article shall be applied only to purposes to which capital money is properly applicable.

(5) For the purposes of paragraph (4) but without prejudice to the generality thereof, purposes to which capital money is properly applicable shall be deemed to include—

- (a) the payment of any interest falling due on a sum of money borrowed under this Article within the five years immediately following the date of that borrowing; and
- (b) the repayment within 12 months of the date of borrowing of any sum for the time being outstanding by way of principal on any amount previously borrowed.

Temporary borrowing

7.—(1) The Commissioners may borrow temporarily, by way of overdraft or otherwise, such sums as the Commissioners may require for meeting their obligations or discharging their functions under or in pursuance of any enactment.

(2) The total amount of monies borrowed under this Article and outstanding at any one time shall not exceed such amount as may be approved by the Department in writing.

(3) The power conferred by this Article shall be in addition to any other borrowing power for the time being exercisable by the Commissioners.

Power to license pleasure craft and boatmen

8.—(1) The Commissioners may grant, upon such terms and conditions as they think fit, licences for pleasure craft to be let for hire to the public in the course of trade or business or to be used for carrying passengers for hire within the port, and to the boatmen or persons assisting in the charge or navigation of such craft.

(2) Any such licence may be granted for such period as the Commissioners may think fit, and may be suspended or revoked by the Commissioners whenever they shall deem such suspension or revocation to be necessary or desirable in the interests of the public.

(3) The existence of the power to suspend or revoke the licence shall be plainly set forth in the licence itself.

(4) A person shall not within the port—

(a) let for hire to the public a pleasure craft which is not licensed in accordance with this Article; or

(b) carry, or permit to be carried, passengers for hire in a pleasure craft unless the craft, and the boatmen in charge thereof and the navigator, are so licensed.

(5) This Article shall not be taken to require a person to be licensed as a boatman who takes on hire a pleasure craft for purposes other than for profit.

(6) A licence under this Article shall not be required for any craft which has a passenger certificate issued by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and valid for the voyage intended or, in the case of hovercraft within the meaning of the Hovercraft Act 1968(a), a certificate of safety valid for the voyage intended.

(7) A person shall not carry or permit to be carried in any pleasure craft a greater number of passengers for hire than shall be specified in the licence applying to such craft, and every owner of any such craft shall before permitting the same to be used for carrying passengers for hire, paint or cause to be painted, in letters and figures not less than three centimetres in height and one half centimetre in breadth, on a conspicuous part of the said craft, his own name and also the number of persons which it is licensed to carry, in the form “Licensed to carry – persons”.

(8) Any person who shall act in contravention of paragraph (4) or (7) shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.

(a) 1968 c. 59

(9) Any person aggrieved by the withholding, suspension or revocation of any licence or by any term or condition subject to which a licence has been granted under the provisions of this Article may appeal to a Court of summary jurisdiction.

(10) In this Article “pleasure craft” means any vessel of not more than 100 tonnes gross used wholly or mainly for recreation or for the carriage of passengers for reward and includes pleasure boats.

Amendment of Statutory provisions

9.—(1) In section 5 of the Belfast Harbour Act 1847 for the words, “(save so far as altered or otherwise provided for by the Belfast Harbour Acts and Orders 1847 to 1979)”, there shall be substituted the words, “(save so far as altered or otherwise provided for by the Belfast Harbour Acts and Orders 1847 to 2002)”.

(2) In section 3 of the Belfast Harbour Act 1882(a) for the words, “not varied by or inconsistent with the Belfast Harbour Acts and Orders 1847 to 1979”, there shall be substituted the words, “not varied by or inconsistent with the Belfast Harbour Acts and Orders 1847 to 2002”.

(3) In section 2 of the Belfast Harbour Act 1898(b) for the words, “not varied by or inconsistent with the Belfast Harbour Acts and Orders 1847 to 1979”, there shall be substituted the words, “not varied by or inconsistent with the Belfast Harbour Acts and Orders 1847 to 2002”.

(4) In section 2 of the Belfast Harbour Act 1901(c) for the words, “not varied by or inconsistent with the Belfast Harbour Acts and Orders 1847 to 1979”, there shall be substituted the words, “not varied by or inconsistent with the Belfast Harbour Acts and Orders 1847 to 2002”.

(5) In section 2 of the Belfast Harbour Act 1918(d) for the words, “not varied by or inconsistent with the Belfast Harbour Acts and Orders 1847 to 1979”, there shall be substituted the words, “not varied by or inconsistent with the Belfast Harbour Acts and Orders 1847 to 2002”.

(6) For Schedule 1 to the Belfast Harbour Acts (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 1979(e), there shall be substituted the provisions set out in Schedule 1 to this Order.

Modification of Harbours, Docks and Piers Clauses Act 1847

10. In relation to the Commissioners, the provisions of section 23 of the Harbours, Docks and Piers Clauses Act 1847(f) shall cease to have effect.

Repeal

11. The statutory provisions specified in columns 1 and 2 of Schedule 2 are hereby repealed to the extent specified in column 3 of that Schedule.

(a) 45 & 46 Vict. c. clxxi
(b) 61 & 62 Vict. c. cv
(c) 1 Edward 7 c. cxxxiii
(d) 8 & 9 Geo.5 c. xviii
(e) S.R. 1979 No. 32
(f) 10 & 11 Vict. c. 27

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for Regional
Development on 12th February 2002.

(L.S.)

Peter D. Robinson
Minister for Regional Development

Belfast Harbour Commissioners

PART I

CONSTITUTION OF COMMISSIONERS

1. In this Schedule “the Council” means the Belfast City Council.

2.—(1) The Commissioners shall consist of not less than 10 and not more than 15 persons who shall be appointed by the Department. Any such appointment may take effect at any time after the coming into operation of this Order.

(2) The persons appointed under sub-paragraph (1) shall include the person for the time being appointed as Chief Executive Officer to the Commissioners under sub-paragraph (6) and may, on the advice of the Commissioners, include one other officer of the Commissioners.

(3) (a) A person appointed as Commissioner under sub-paragraph (1) other than a person referred to in sub-paragraph (2) or in paragraph 3 shall hold office for a period of 4 years or such lesser period as the Department may determine but shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(b) A person referred to in sub-paragraph (2) shall hold office as Commissioner so long as he holds the qualifying office by virtue of which he was appointed.

(4) (a) The Department shall designate a Commissioner as Chairman of the Commissioners and may designate another Commissioner as Deputy Chairman.

(b) A person referred to in sub-paragraph (2) shall not hold the office of Chairman or Deputy Chairman.

(5) Section 18(2) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954^(a) shall apply to any appointment made by the Department under sub-paragraph (1).

(6) The Commissioners shall appoint a person to act as Chief Executive Officer to the Commissioners.

3. A maximum of four of the persons appointed under paragraph 2(1) shall be members of the Council appointed by the Department following consultation with the Council. Any member so appointed shall be eligible to serve as Commissioner for a period co-terminus with his membership of the Council.

4. A person appointed under paragraph 3 who ceases to be a member of the Council shall thereupon cease to be a Commissioner.

5.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) in the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the office of the Chairman the vacancy shall be filled by the Deputy Chairman until a new Chairman is appointed by the Department.

(2) If there is no Deputy Chairman, the Commissioners shall elect one of their number, other than a person referred to in paragraph 2(2), to fill any such vacancy as is mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) and the Commissioner so elected shall hold office as Chairman until a new Chairman is appointed by the Department.

(a) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)

6.—(1) The Department in making appointments under paragraph 2(1) shall select persons who appear to it to have experience of, and to have capacity in, one or more of the matters mentioned in sub-paragraph (2) or to have in some other respect special knowledge or experience which would be of value to the Commissioners in the discharge of their functions, or to have any other skills and abilities considered from time to time by the Department to be relevant or useful to the Commissioners.

(2) The matters referred to in sub-paragraph (1) are the management of harbours, shipping, port usage, industrial, commercial or financial matters, administration, and the organisation of workers.

7. The Department may appoint one of its officials to attend meetings of the Commissioners as an observer. Any observer so appointed shall not take part in any deliberation or decision of the Commissioners.

PART II

PROCEDURE, ETC, OF COMMISSIONERS

8. A meeting of the Commissioners shall be held not later than one month after the date on which the first appointment of Commissioners under this Schedule takes effect and thereafter meetings shall be held on such dates and at such intervals as the Commissioners may determine.

9. The quorum required for a meeting of the Commissioners shall be five.

10.—(1) A Commissioner shall, if he is in any way directly or indirectly interested in any contract or other transaction entered into or proposed to be entered into by the Commissioners which involves or is likely to involve any payment by or on behalf of the Commissioners, disclose the nature of his interest at a meeting of the Commissioners as soon as possible after the relevant circumstances have come to his knowledge.

(2) Any disclosure under sub-paragraph (1) shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting, and that Commissioner shall withdraw from the meeting while that contract or transaction is being considered and shall not take part after the disclosure in any deliberation or decision of the Commissioners with respect to that contract or transaction.

(3) Where under sub-paragraph (2) a Commissioner is prohibited from taking part in any deliberation or decision, that Commissioner shall be disregarded for the purpose of constituting a quorum for that deliberation or decision.

11. The proceedings of the Commissioners or any Committee appointed by the Commissioners shall not be invalidated by any vacancy in the membership thereof or by any defect in the appointment of or by the disqualification of any person acting as Chairman or Deputy Chairman or a Commissioner.

12. The seal of the Commissioners shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman of the Commissioners or some other Commissioner authorised by the Commissioners to act in that behalf and of the Secretary to the Commissioners or some other person authorised by the Commissioners to act in that behalf.

Statutory Provisions Repealed

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Short Title</i>	<i>Extent of Repeal</i>
10 & 11 Vict. c. lii	The Belfast Harbour Act 1847	Sections 55 to 72 and section 111
15 & 16 Vict. c. cxxi	The Belfast Port and Harbour Conservancy Act 1852	Sections 18 to 20 and section 23
17 & 18 Vict. c. xlv	The Belfast Dock Act 1854	Sections 23 and 24
33 & 34 Vict. c. xcvi	The Belfast Harbour Act 1870	The Whole Act
45 & 46 Vict. c. clxxi	The Belfast Harbour Act 1882	Sections 50, 52 and 53
61 & 62 Vict. c. cv.	The Belfast Harbour Act 1898	Section 49
8 & 9 Geo. 5 c. xviii	The Belfast Harbour Act 1918	Sections 24 and 29
2 Geo. 6 c. iv	The Belfast Harbour Act 1938	Section 17
1950 c. iv	The Belfast Harbour Act 1950	Section 21
1956 c. iv	The Belfast Harbour Act 1956	Section 21

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order.)

This Order confers the following powers on the Belfast Harbour Commissioners—

- (1) general powers and duties of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners in respect of the port (Article 3);
- (2) retention and disposal of land subject to arrangements made by the Department (Article 4);
- (3) formation of wholly-owned subsidiaries for carrying on activities which the Commissioners have power to carry on (Article 5);
- (4) regulation of borrowing of money (Articles 6 and 7);
- (5) licensing of pleasure craft and boatmen within the port (Article 8).

The Order further amends the Belfast Harbour Acts and Orders 1847 to 1979 in relation to the Constitution of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners (Article 9 and Schedule 1).

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