



Boat Safety Scheme Limited

Review of membership of the Boat Safety Scheme Technical Forum (BSSTF) and the Boat Safety Scheme Advisory Forum (BSSAF)

You are invited to contribute to the ongoing review of the membership of the Boat Safety Scheme Technical and Advisory Forums.

An annual review of membership is required by the respective forums' terms of reference (ToR). On this occasion, to coordinate the reviews to ensure consistency; and to maximise the opportunities presented by developments in digital communication the directors of Boat Safety Scheme Limited (BSS) have decided to conduct a fundamental and stand-alone review of both forums.

The BSSTF and BSSAF provide the opportunity for a range of stakeholders to influence the operation of the Scheme as per their respective ToR. The current structure of membership of each forum is set out in those ToR. These were reviewed and confirmed when the Boat Safety Scheme became a limited Company in April 2024. These are the principles of membership extracted from the ToR documents:

'The aim is for the [BSSTF/AF] to maintain a workable and comprehensive balance of interests within its membership...

'Membership of the [BSSTF/AF] is to be for the purpose of advancing the work of BSS and the Standards and not to advance organisational self-interest, commercial or otherwise.

'The member organisations of the [BSSTF/AF] are subject to annual review...'

The Schedules of Membership set out the composition of the forums, including the sectors and names of representative organisations.

Recent feedback from some stakeholders would suggest that the current arrangements may be cumbersome and that the aims of the respective forums could be better met by utilising a more creative use of digital communications.

In appreciation of this feedback, a working group has been established to review the current membership arrangements with the following terms of reference;

'To review the composition; membership; and meetings structure of the Technical Forum and Advisory Forum, having regard to the existing terms of reference and the opportunities provided by digital communication.'

The working group is therefore keen to hear from any navigation or harbour authority, boat owners, Examiners, members of the marine industry or other stakeholders who wish to contribute to the more effective operation of these consultative processes.

Submissions should be made by email to bss.enquiries@boatsafetyscheme.org before 25 September 2026. Where any submission represents the interests of a stakeholder or group, the author should state their capacity within the organisation in making their response.

Copies of the current Terms of Reference for, and Participating Organisations of the respective forums can be found on links on this BSS web page <https://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/about-us/governing-the-bss/>

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Endorsed by:

