

Thank you for the Department's letter of 29 January (copy attached) identifying that there have been further representations in the context of the above application.

I have read the representations from the Harbour Conservancy and also the latest comments from the Applicant.

Our position remains unchanged. Our strong preference is that the renewal of the Permission should be on a time limited basis in order that the Applicant has a reasonable opportunity over several seasons to demonstrate its ability to comply with all aspects of its Permission including in particular the agreed Management Plan.

I see no need to make any further formal comment.

I note however that the Applicant's mea culpa in its further response seems a little disingenuous. We, and other neighbours, are members of the Club and are keen that it should continue to thrive. As I mentioned in my email below, I met with the Club's new General Manager, Edwina Aason, towards the end of April last year, shortly after the first inkling that there might be issues in relation to the 2019 season. We had a very constructive meeting over coffee in the Members' Lounge during which I gave her what I believed to be an unbiased and objective summary of the planning history and a short written summary of the Club's key responsibilities (including those set out in the Management Plan). In particular, I flagged for Edwina the requirement to give reasonable notice of intended overnight use. I do not believe the Applicant deliberately ignores its obligations but I strongly suspect that there are systemic issues (possibly inevitable with a mainly voluntary management structure within a club) that mean important aspects of planning and other compliance are misunderstood and obligations are overlooked. I believe this reinforces the desirability of keeping the permission under review from time to time and not granting a permanent permission from which there may be drift.

Please let me know if there are any aspects of our concerns that you would like me to expand on.