Poole Harbour Commissioners (PHC) is a Competent Harbour Authority (CHA) within the meaning of the Pilotage Act 1987 and publishes Pilotage Directions. These Directions define PHC’s Pilotage District and the requirements for compulsory pilotage within it. They also lay down regulations under which Pilotage Exemption Certificates (PECs) are issued and administered in that District.

PHC Board policy in respect to pilotage is to:

- Ensure that the operation of the pilotage service is compliant with national regulations, guidelines and competency standards;
- Keep under review its Pilotage Directions to ensure that they are based on formal risk assessment and are fully in accord with the current Navigational Safety Management System;
- Maintain a competent and Authorised Pilotage Service;
- Maintain a fully supported Pilotage Service, able to respond to all properly notified pilotage requirements;
- Keep the means of boarding and landing pilots under review to ensure that these operations are always undertaken as safely as possible;
- Administer the PEC system to ensure that all PEC applicants and holders fully meet the requirements laid down in the Pilotage Directions.

Nothing in this Policy shall subvert existing Harbour Byelaws, General Directions, regulations or terms and conditions.