

General Directions for the Port of Folkestone

General Directions are issued as necessary by the owners and operators of Folkestone Harbour pursuant to the Folkestone Harbour Revision Order 2017 which came into force on the 1st August 2017 (the "HRO").

This General Direction is issued in accordance with sections 27 & 28 of the HRO.

In accordance with section 31 of the HRO, failure to comply with a general direction is punishable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale, exclusive of any cost penalties which might apply.

General Direction No.1 (2019)

This direction is issued under section 27(1)(b) of the HRO and concerns the safety of persons using the harbour infrastructure as a means to enter the sea surrounding the harbour. This practice, known as "tombstoning", involves a person(s) deliberately jumping into the harbour waters from the harbour premises. This practice is inherently dangerous partly due to the fact that the harbour has a large tidal range in excess of 5 metres and, in many places, dries out completely at low water. Tidal action is also known to uncover potentially dangerous objects often not visible above the sea surface. Any person(s) engaging in tombstoning therefore puts themselves at considerable risk as they are unlikely to be able to anticipate whether they are jumping into safe water. In other ports, this practice has resulted in death or serious injury to the perpetrators.

The owners and operators of Folkestone Harbour consider that for the safety of everyone concerned the practice of "tombstoning" is banned completely from the implementation date of this general direction.