Mr George Rawlinson (Chairman),
National Water Safety Forum,
c/o RoSPA House,
28 Calthorpe Road,
Edgbaston,
Birmingham,
B15 1RP.

21st January, 2016.

Dear Mr Rawlinson,

The UK Drowning Prevention Strategy (2016 - 2026)

I can confirm that the Port of Sunderland supports the UK Drowning Prevention Strategy, which aims to reduce accidental drowning fatalities in the UK by 50% by 2026 and reduce risk amongst the highest risk populations, groups and communities.

It will do this by taking reasonable and proportionate steps where considered appropriate, which may include:

(a) The targeted and proactive use of Water Patrols on the River Wear, especially during high levels of seasonal activity;

(b) Working in partnership with internal and external stakeholders, including Search and Rescue assets, Emergency Services, relevant Sunderland City Council service areas and water-based leisure organisations;

(c) Discouraging inappropriate swimming activity in the River Wear by the proportionate application of the Port of Sunderland Byelaws where considered appropriate;

(d) Exploring ways of encouraging pleasure boat users to utilise appropriate safety equipment, including the use of lifejackets; and

(e) Where appropriate, engaging with local and national water safety campaigns and initiatives.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Mel Speding
Vice Chairman, Port Board.