

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Eilean Eisdeal

The Community Hall

Easdale Island

Oban

Argyll PA34 4TB

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing as promised to confirm my concerns regarding Easdale Island harbour which Eilean Eisdeal owns and manages on behalf of the community. I first raised these specific concerns with you in early March this year and gave you a fairly comprehensive account of these when we met shortly thereafter.

As some of these concerns are serious and fairly urgent it is disappointing that to date you have taken no action to properly address these concerns and that to a certain extent you are still in denial regarding your responsibilities both to Eilean Eisdeal's members and to the public.

When [REDACTED] had a professionally designed and installed moorings scheme in the harbour. [REDACTED] also had an up to date health and safety inspection report of the harbour.

Five years or so ago it appears that this arrangement was completely replaced by a scheme comprising what appear to be second hand pontoons of indeterminate condition, without benefit of any professional input either as regards design or installation. You have confirmed that there has been no recent health and safety inspection or audit of the harbour.

In addition the harbour area is very untidy with numerous safety hazards that range, in my opinion, from mild to serious.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The harbour area is frequented by the public as well as boat users. Children often play in the harbour area. There are numerous other hazards littering the harbour area both below and above high tide mark. This includes old anchors, numerous lengths of large and heavy surplus scrap chain, which I believe has been used in some cases for moorings, at least one old and apparently decrepit ladder still fixed to the harbour wall. The pontoons appear to have sharp and angular metal projections which may be trip hazards as well as presenting other dangers.

There is a boat cradle fixed permanently on the beach on the westerly side of the harbour with sharp angular metal projections and which is used for commercial work and maintenance of boats. This was installed within the last three years but I am unaware if any permissions (e.g. planning permission was sought in respect of this installation) or if it has been professionally designed and installed. It and the activities it seems to be used for appear to me to present a hazard to the public.

[REDACTED]

I am a lay person in these matters and the numerous hazards in what has become a very untidy and neglected harbour area seem obvious to me. This is by no means a comprehensive list.

My most immediate concern is that an accident may result. I have a further concern that in the event of any third party claim your insurance company will have more than adequate reasons to refuse to represent you. The assets of Eilean Eisdeal, the community hall, the museum and the harbour may all therefore be placed at risk. As we approach the school holidays and the tourist season gets underway all these health and safety risks will increase. It seems to me that you are therefore failing in your duty both to the public and to the membership of Eilean Eisdeal and that there is an urgency in tackling these matters.

Your continual denial of responsibility [REDACTED] and your recent commitments, only given under pressure, that you will deal with these matters at some unspecified time in the future do not satisfy me as adequate. [REDACTED] repeatedly suggested that you employ a suitably qualified and independent consultant to urgently advise you in how best to tackle these problems. You have so far declined to do so, apparently on the grounds of cost.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Some at least of the concerns I have raised could have been dealt with on a voluntary basis by the community long before now.

For these reasons I am now going to raise my concerns with a number of agencies who I believe will share my concerns and who have the expertise and powers of investigation and compulsion to deal with these issues, as well as other parties who will have an interest in the matter.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

