



Dear Boat Owner,

Keeping everyone safe during the Coronavirus pandemic

Firstly, we would like to thank you for your support in following the new regulations set out in law. We do appreciate that with the lovely weather we have had recently it has been very tempting to get out on the water, but by complying with these regulations you are helping to reduce the spread of the virus and protect our community.

In order to help keep everyone safe, we are offering what we hope will be a helpful reminder about the law in relation to restrictions on movement and how that affects the use of your vessel.

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020 sets out the following restrictions on movement. Please note this is law as set out by an Act of Parliament. You can download the full document by googling 'The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020'. A summary of the legislation is below, for your ease of reference:

During the emergency period, no person may leave the place where they are living without reasonable excuse which includes-

- *Shopping for necessities*
- *One form of exercise a day, on water activities are not included.*
- *A medical need, including to donate blood, avoid or escape risk of injury or harm,*
- *To provide care or to help a vulnerable person*
- *Travelling for work purposes, but only where you cannot work from home*

Basically, if anyone is leaving their place of residence for a reason which is not listed above then they may be breaching the law and could be liable for a fine issued by the police. The vast majority of people we have met have understood the legislation and the reasons for it. Our Officers are patrolling regularly and have identified a number of questions which are coming up frequently, and we would like to share some with you to help explain our approach, and keep everyone safe.

Q. Can I pop down to my boat to check on it/ spend the day on it/ stay for the weekend?

A. No this does not fall under any of the list of reasonable excuses. If your boat is in a marina, please contact the marina to ask them to check on it on your behalf. Driving or walking to spend the day on your boat is not essential travel as listed above. You cannot live between two addresses, if you permanently live on your boat that is fine, but you cannot change between two different addresses.

If you are concerned about the immediate safety of your vessel and attending your vessel is **essential** then please contact us for guidance.

Q. I can't afford my mooring fees, can I move my boat?

A. Again, this does not fall under the list of essential travel, so the short answer is no you cannot move your boat from its current mooring. However, we do not want to see people in financial difficulty so please contact us to work out a solution once all other avenues have been tried and failed such as asking the marina for a payment holiday or them moving it to a cheaper mooring for you.

Q. Why can't I go out sailing/ rowing/ kayaking? I will be completely isolated from other people.

A. While on the face of it, being on your own on a boat may seem like a good way to self-isolate, there are lots of reasons why this is not currently considered a reasonable excuse to be out.

1. This is not listed by law as a reasonable excuse to be out.
2. In the event of an emergency at sea, the RNLI have to turn out from their homes to come in to contact with each other in turn risking the spread of the virus.
3. We cannot allow one or two to use the water and not others, so if we say that you can use your boat we have to allow all and before long sailing clubs will be packed again risking the spread of the virus.
4. Notices to Mariners have been issued supporting the government guidelines asking people to not use rivers or waterways for leisure.

We appreciate this is frustrating, we also want to be out on our own leisure boats, but if you can help us by staying at home and not using the river for leisure then we can look forward to fully enjoying our river again when we have brought the pandemic under control. We are all in this together, so please don't risk getting a fine or, even worse, spreading the virus.

Thank you again for your continued support, we look forward to seeing you on the water as soon as the restrictions lift.

The Crouch Harbour Authority

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