

# NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026

REPORT NO.  
5

## HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING (HS&W) QUARTERLY REPORT

26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025 – 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026

**Purpose:** For members' information.

**Recommendations:** The report is received.

### 1. Training (Q3 2025/26)

The following formal external HS&W-related training was undertaken in Q3:

Training Course	Type	Duration (days)	No. Officers Attended
Approved Engine Course	Statutory	5	3
Day Skipper Theory	CPD	5	3
Intermediate Power Boat	CPD	2	6
GVC Drone Training	CPD	2	1
HSE Creating a Safety Culture of Excellence	CPD	1	1
NEBOSH Fire Safety	CPD	5	1

Total number of officer days on formal external HS&W related training: 50 days

Three ML5 seafarer medicals were renewed during this period.

### 2. Organisational Development

Our Science Officer (Health & Safety), Robin Love has undertaken a comprehensive gap analysis of the Authority's health and safety policies and procedures, using the HSE's framework. This highlighted several areas for improvement which then informed a 12-month action plan agreed with the Senior Management Team (SMT). Robin will be working with colleagues over the next year to deliver these identified prioritised improvements, which include areas such as risk assessments, reporting and investigations.

Working with our H&S Working Group, Robin also developed and initiated a HSE Safety Climate Tool survey, which acted as an assessment of the Authority's overall safety culture at the point of survey.

Assessing the results alongside those from the aforementioned gap analysis, SMT were able to identify several key areas for improvement around culture, including more accountability from line managers, and the importance of readily accessible information for officers with regards to routine checks. These key areas have been integrated into our action plan for the coming year.

### **3. H&S Statistics**

Statistics relating to H&S are reported on a financial quarterly basis for the most recently completed quarter, in this case Q3 2025/26:

- Near Misses = 1
- Incidents = 0
- Accidents = 1
  - (of which RIDDOR reportable) = 0
- Safety Observations = 6

#### *Near Misses*

The one near miss in this quarter related a crew member being at the helm of North Western Protector but not being able to see two large buoys in front due to glare from the sun; avoiding action was needed. This led to a review of our sunglasses provision policy for operational staff, and an update by way of clarification of required UV protection levels with the issuance of new sunglasses where appropriate.

#### *Accidents*

The one accident during Q3 involved a fisherman stepping in a 3-4-foot-deep sinkhole which had appeared close to the slipway used as an access and egress point for the Newbiggin cockle bed. Relevant staff were informed for their own safety, and the safety of fishermen, the sinkhole was mapped on our new data mapping system, and the local council were also notified.

#### *Safety Observations*

The Safety Observations facility was implemented in the latter part of Q2. In Q3, there have been six safety observations, covering low level issues such as radon gas levels in Carnforth falling but still being above recommended levels, clarifications to our lone working policy for officers visiting stakeholders' homes, and showers being placed out of use due to temperature requirements.

*Mark Taylor, North Western IFCA CEO, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026.*