



Regulation Directorate Ministerial Briefing Note

Driving on West Park Beach – West Park Slipway to Elizabeth Castle

Date: 27 May 2025

For the attention of the: Minister for EDTSC

Regulation Team: Regulatory Improvement & Licencing

Author: Andrew Jones

Impact: Low **Urgency:** Moderate **Priority:** Moderate

Executive Summary

Request received from G4S to vary the existing permissions to drive on the beach at West Park.

Background

Following a request from G4S in November 2024 permission was granted under the Policing of Beaches Regulations (Article 3(1)(a)) to allow it to drive on the beach between West Park Slipway and Elizabeth Castle. This request was for the purposes of transporting staff and equipment to and from the Castle.

The conditions stipulated that the route to be taken was from West Park Slipway to Elizabeth Castle and return. Additional conditions also included the following, ensure that the vehicle/s do not get beached or grounded in the sand, ensure that you are aware of the tidal conditions, access to and from the beach must be from the nearest practical slipway, maximum speed limit on the beach 10mph and must take into consideration other beach users and those living in the immediate vicinity.

Following consultation with the Minister permission was granted on 18 November 2024.

Situation

The Directorate has received an email requesting to vary the original conditions so vehicles can be driven from Bel Royal Slipway to Elizabeth Castle and return, see map below, route in red. This variation is due to the sand at West Park becoming much more difficult to cross (soft sand), increasing the risk of vehicles getting grounded.

Whilst the request is to change the existing route all additional conditions will be met. G4S have also stipulated it will not drive over the protected sea grass are as shown in the map below.

G4S have advised that access to and from the Castle would typically be one or two trips a day. It would only be using one vehicle for the trips.

Officer Recommendation

Whilst the sand at the bottom of West Park Slipway is currently deep and soft this may cause vehicles to become grounded or beached, the sight of vehicles traveling to and from Bel Royal Slipway to Elizabeth Castle, with a frequency indicated above, may be of some concern to beach users and to other members of the public. This may also be of some concern to respective Parish authorities.

G4s need to be encouraged to utilise the Castle Ferry Service or use more appropriate vehicle suited to the terrain.

Forthcoming Action(s)

The Minister to reject request from G4s to drive its vehicles to and from Bel Royal Slipway to Elizabeth Castle on the grounds that it is detrimental to other beach users, members of the public and Parish authorities.

Financial and staffing implications

No financial or staffing implications

Appendices

Current driving route - West Park Slipway to Elizabeth Castle

Proposed driving route – Bel Royal to Elizabeth Castle



Dissemination

This briefing note has been disseminated to the following on [Click or tap to enter a date.](#):

☒ Minister

- ☐ Assistant Minister
- ☐ Private Secretary, Ministerial Office

- ☐ Group Director
- ☐ Head of Service
- ☐ Team Manager

- ☐ Chief Officer, Infrastructure & Environment