

Skellig Michael Boatmen Pier Protocols:

(To be appended to the Permit Terms and Conditions)

- All boatmen will have a helper/second member of crew on board for each trip to the island to assist with safe visitor management and disembarking / embarking at the Skellig Pier.
- In the event of an accident/incident at the pier, the Boatman involved will make a report directly to the OPW National Monuments Service in Claremorris (see below).
- The boatmen will be solely responsible for making a judgement as to whether a landing at the pier is safe. This will involve using their seafaring experience and knowledge of conditions at the island in conjunction with the prevailing weather and sea conditions on the day itself. However, they may not make a landing in conditions which could reasonably be described as hazardous and will take into account the physical ability and condition of their passengers to make a safe transfer onto the Island, given the prevailing sea and weather conditions.
- Only one boat is permitted to land at the pier at any one time for the disembarkation or embarkation of visitors.
- Prior to arrival at the island, the boatmen must issue visitors with clear instructions regarding the procedure for disembarking from the boat at the pier, such as how to step off, etc.
- Upon arrival at the island boatmen should directly inform/remind their passengers of the name of their boat and their time of departure in order to facilitate embarkation on the correct vessel for their return journey and to reduce confusion at the pier.
- Boatmen should ask passengers to leave the pier as soon as is practicable.
- When leaving the island, should the sea conditions at the pier be poor, visitors should first assemble at the lifebuoy location near the pier before making their way one-by-one to the boat and should board in an orderly fashion and subject to instructions of the Boat Operator and / or his Helper.
- If the boatmen notice any faults with the pier these should be reported to the OPW Guides or OPW Maintenance staff, who will arrange for inspection as soon as possible.

Accidents/Incidents:

- The boatmen and their crew members must be familiar with the location of the lifebuoy near the pier and this should be used in the event that someone enters the water while disembarking / embarking.
- If an accident/incident occurs and assistance is required, the Guide on duty on the Lower Lighthouse Road at the bottom of the steps should be contacted by radio as soon as possible, as they will be best placed to attend.
- Following any accident/incident involving one of their passengers, the relevant

boatman must submit a report to OPW National Monuments in Claremorris as soon as practical. The following guidelines should be used:

- Incidents involving injury, no matter how minor, **must** be reported;
- Incidents involving a visitor entering the sea, no matter how quickly they are retrieved, **must** be reported.
- Incidents involving visitors suffering from ill health / attacks / collapse at the Pier **must** be reported. (While the term "illness" is not meant to include every instance of seasickness, an incident where a visitor for example faints or collapses on the Pier immediately after disembarking due to the effects of seasickness must be reported.)
- The relevant details reported must, at a minimum, include the name / nationality and basic contact details of the visitor.

- Reports should be submitted writing to:

OPW, Lakeside Retail Park,
Claremorris,
Co. Mayo
OR [padraic.campbell@opw,ie](mailto:padraic.campbell@opw.ie)