Notice to Mariners
Traffic Light Operations Lochboisdale Harbour

This NtM, effective from 28th May 2025, to allow for increased movements during the busier times of the year/day, for vessels unfamiliar with the Gasay North Channel protocols. As a consequence of more frequent ferry movements and increased traffic to/from the harbour, there is an increased risk for vessels unfamiliar with Lochboisdale harbour.

As from 28th May 2024 through to the 31st August 2025
Lochboisdale Harbour will man and operate the breakwater Red traffic lights (3FR) during ferry movements or any large vessels (defined here as any vessel with a draught greater than 3m and or 20m in length and including all RO-RO Ferries transiting the North Gasay channel. If a vessel constrained by its draft requires to transit the Gasay North Channel outside these times, normal controls apply.

Actions by all vessels inside Lochboisdale Harbour:-

In addition to the requirements all vessels departing Lochboisdale Harbour shall check the traffic lights status. When the red traffic lights are on, no vessel may leave the breakwaters of Lochboisdale Harbour unless such vessel is given permission from the harbour office. Once the vessel constrained by its draft has passed the breakwaters outbound, the red traffic lights will be switched off, allowing normal flow of traffic to resume. Departing vessels shall not overtake the vessel constrained by its draft, within the Gasay North Channel.

Action by Vessels constrained by their draft:-
All vessels deemed constrained by their draft should in addition to the Securite message contact the Harbour office on **VHF 12** 5 minutes before departure and inform the duty officer as of their intention to transit the Gasay North channel.The Duty Officer will confirm to the vessel that the Red lights are active. Inbound vessels shall call the Harbour Office when passing MacKenzie Rock with their ETA at Gasay Light and. The Duty Officer will confirm to the vessel that the Red lights are active.

This procedure is in place to allow more stringent control over vessel movements during the times highlighted in the LHA Navigational risk assessments. Whilst these procedures should be adopted by all vessels operating in the Lochboisdale Harbour area, it is important that a proper lookout is maintained, that the vessel is proceeding at a safe speed and that sound seamanship is demonstrated by all mariners. This NtM does not relieve the vessel Skippers/Masters their obligation to check the Channel is clear, prior to entering it.

All previous versions of this NtM are now withdrawn.

Further information can be obtained using the contact details below:
Donald. A. Currie | Harbour Master – Lochboisdale Harbour | 01878 700 830 | 07586787678