

QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR

Question submitted by: Councillor Mrs Terri Beer

To Cabinet Member: Councillor Pat Patel, Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure and Sport

Question:

Are there any lifeguards covering the swim rafts in Plymouth Sound?

Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members)

There is currently no lifeguards covering the swim rafts in Plymouth Sound, however with 5 designated bathing areas in the National Marine Park, the team are working closely with the RNLI who have been conducting 'beach safety audits'. These risk audits take into consideration the shape of the beach, the tides and currents, as well as shipping, usage of the beaches and other factors. We will be reviewing these audits with the RNLI to determine if any further action is required.

In addition to the audits being conducted, the NMP team, funded by the Heritage Fund, is developing a focus on water safety. Working with the RNLI there is a plan to visit every single Key Stage 2 class in Plymouth in the Spring Term, to promote water safety with a 'Meet the Lifeguard' and NMP Coastal Ranger visit. Offering schools youth education is a proven attribute to the success of water safety campaigns.

Swim England and the RNLI are also working with the NMP Coastal Ranger Team as well as the Ocean Conservation Trust (OCT) to offer Swim Safe training to 7 – 14 year olds on sea awareness, self-rescue, how to spot someone in danger and how to deal with it – **reiterating to call 999, ask for the Coastguard, never enter the water yourself messaging.**

For more information on any of the programmes that the NMP are rolling out for water safety, please contact NMPHorizon@plymouth.gov.uk.

Signed:

Dated: 12/08/2022