

## **PE1770/C**

Water Safety Scotland submission of 6 February 2020

Water Safety Scotland supports a strong relationship with the Scottish Government through Building Safer Communities but would welcome further focussed partnership work to improve water safety in Scotland.

Water Safety Scotland supports the call that tampering with rescue equipment should be made a criminal offence of endangering public safety.

With regards to “all waterways have life-saving equipment such as lifebelts and buoyancy throw bags, with ropes, to allow multiple attempts at rescue”, Water Safety Scotland would like to note the following on the terms used:

- “life-saving” equipment should be referred to as “public rescue equipment”
- There is no such thing as a buoyancy throw bag – it should be referred to as a throw bag

Water Safety Scotland advocates for wider education and safe participation near, in and around water.

Water Safety Scotland agrees that ropes can be fitted to public rescue equipment to help with multiple rescue attempts. However, Water Safety Scotland does not agree that all waterways in Scotland should have public rescue equipment, but we recognise that in certain locations this may be an appropriate measure.

Water Safety Scotland advocates for local authorities and landowners to create a water safety policy covering the waterways they have responsibility for. Such a policy would include a process to assess risk which would cover control measures (such as public rescue equipment) that could be put in place if appropriate.

As part of the consultation process, Water Safety Scotland would advise that contact should be made with National Governing Bodies of Sport /Scottish Governing Bodies of Sport.

This policy should be made publicly available.