



# Trinity House

## About Trinity House



Trinity House is the General Lighthouse Authority (GLA) for England, Wales and the Channel Islands. It provides and maintains nearly 600 aids to navigation ranging from lighthouses and buoys through to the latest satellite navigation technology.



Additionally, Trinity House inspects over 10,000 local aids to navigation provided by port and harbour authorities, and those positioned on offshore structures. Increasingly it is undertaking private commercial work which helps to fund its obligations as an aids to navigation provider.



Along with the other two GLA's for the United Kingdom and Ireland, Trinity House is funded by the General Lighthouse Fund. The fund is supported by Light Dues, a fee levied on commercial shipping calling at ports in the United Kingdom and Ireland. The rate of Light Dues has fallen in real terms for over a decade with the rate either being frozen or cut.

Trinity House is also a major maritime charity, which operates as a separate entity to the GLA. The charity is wholly funded by its endowments. It spends around £3 million every year on the welfare of mariners, education and training of future seafarers, promoting safety at sea and fulfilling its role as a Deep Sea Pilotage Authority.

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# The GLAs and how they're funded

The General Lighthouse Authorities for the United Kingdom and Ireland are funded by a system called Light Dues.

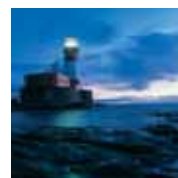
The Light Dues rate is set by the Department for Transport and is payable by each commercial vessel using a UK or Irish port. Since 1993, despite the rate of inflation, the cost of light dues has either remained the same or reduced.

Light Dues are collected electronically and placed in a central account, the General Lighthouse Fund, which is shared by the Commissioners of Irish Lights, the Northern Lighthouse Board and Trinity House.

The Light Dues levy is payable per net ton on commercial shipping but is only payable for the first six visits to a UK or Irish port per year.

Efficiencies created by the GLA's has enabled Light Dues to be reduced. The automation of lighthouses and the commissioning of new vessels requiring fewer crew to operate, for example, have brought cost savings.

The General Lighthouse Fund is not contributed to by the UK taxpayer.



**Trinity House**

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