



Department  
for Transport

From the Minister of State  
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## THE NATIONAL DROWNING PREVENTION STRATEGY

Dear All,

It is vitally important that the public and visitors to our shores and countryside enjoy the benefits that come from participation in water based activities.

About 400 people accidentally drown every year, with a further 200 people committing suicide on our waters. This equates to one person dying from drowning every 15 hours. Many good prevention programmes have been established already by members of the National Water Safety Forum, resulting in many lives saved, but to improve this further a step change is needed.

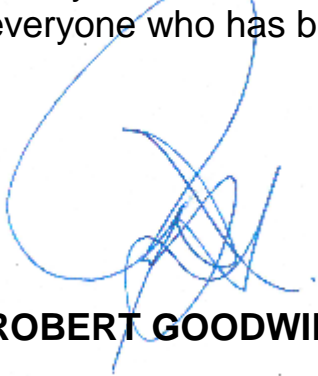
I am pleased to say that the UK Government fully supports the National Water Safety Forum's National Drowning Prevention Strategy. It aims to achieve a 50% reduction in drownings by 2026 by encouraging people to stay safe whilst enjoying themselves.

Collaboration is essential if we are to succeed in reducing fatalities in and around the water, and the Forum believes there is a wealth of knowledge, expertise and insight into drowning that can be tapped into. Members from the Amateurs Swimming Association, Maritime and Coastal Agency, Royal Life Saving Society, Canal and Rivers Trust, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, British Sub-Aqua Club and the Chief Fire Officers Association have provided input, and have been instrumental in the completion of this report.

By combining our resources and working to common targets to teach children to swim, take a risk based approach to prevention activities and better understand water related self - harm, we *can* aim towards a future without drownings.

The development of the Strategy itself reflects the hard work and investment from all parties involved, and this includes water safety organisations, community groups, Government and individuals.

Too many people die from drowning and I fully support the National Water Safety Forum's aim to raise awareness of the risks. My congratulations to everyone who has been involved in the development of this strategy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Goodwill', is positioned above the printed name. The signature is fluid and somewhat abstract, with a large loop at the top left.

**ROBERT GOODWILL**