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Local Authority Chief Executives
via Email

05 June 2026

Community Safety: Water Safety

Dear Sir/Madam,

With summer and the school holidays upon us, I write to you as Chief Executive to ask for your support in promoting specific resources and support available to your colleagues to support individuals to have a safe time in and around water.

For context, activities in and around water are enjoyed safely and responsibly by the majority of people. However, the latest data released from Water Safety Scotland shows there were 39 accidental water-related deaths in Scotland in 2025, with the highest number of fatalities taking place in August.

Water Safety Scotland co-ordinates Scotland's national approach to water safety to help prevent accidental drownings. A key part of the approach taken is education and awareness-raising to support safe use of our waters. The ability to swim is, of course, an important part of keeping safe in the water, but there are many other issues to be aware of such as water temperature and depth, and the presence of currents or other, often hidden, hazards below the surface.

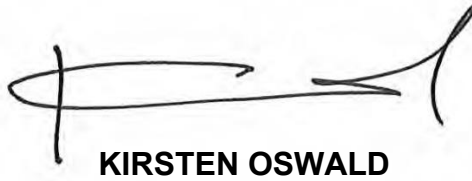
A range of national and local partners are central to this prevention-based work, and as such I would like to draw your attention to resources developed by Education Scotland and Water Safety Scotland for each education level from ages 3 to 18. These resources aim to support water safety education by providing education professionals with effective tools to help educate children about how to keep themselves and others safe around water, with a particular emphasis on the dangers of cold water shock and the importance of float to live. I would be grateful for your support in promoting these resources, available on the national digital learning platform Glow, to education colleagues and their pupils.

Secondly, you may already be aware that Water Safety Scotland can assist local authorities with developing tailored water safety policies. Guidance on this was created last year by Water Safety Scotland and a policy workshop will be arranged for local authorities to help inform their water safety policies. The date and timing of this workshop will be shared in time, but I would be grateful if this opportunity could be highlighted to colleagues in advance. Water Safety Scotland can be contacted at info@watersafetyscotland.org.uk for any queries ahead of this.

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I am grateful for your co-operation in these matters and welcome your feedback on these elements, or on wider water safety prevention work, to help inform future work.

Yours sincerely,



KIRSTEN OSWALD

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