



Department
for Transport

From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps

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Brian Johnson
CEO Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Dear Brian,

I am sure you share the Government's shock and dismay at the actions of P&O Ferries over the past week. Their treatment of loyal workers and their desire to undercut British workers with wages below the national minimum wage are wholly unacceptable.

I have presented proposals to the House of Commons today, setting out the measures we will take to increase protection to seafarers operating on ferries in the UK. To do this I will be exercising our port state control to place a duty on the ports sector, to ensure that the ferry operators they work with are paying their seafarers at least the minimum wage.

This will have the practical impact of barring ferries run by operators who do not pay their workers the minimum wage from UK ports.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency will have a key role to play in enforcing this. As Secretary of State for Transport, I expect the full support of the MCA, as the UK's maritime regulator, to ensure that ports are complying with these new statutory duties. Where ports do not comply, I expect the MCA to take action. Only by working together on this can we ensure that operators, such as P&O Ferries, are not able to exploit loopholes in order to pay their workers less than the legally-required minimum wage.

I look forward to working together with you to finalise the precise nature of the proposed legislative changes over the coming days.

Thank you in advance for your support on this matter. I also would like to take this opportunity to thank the MCA for its diligence and professionalism in ensuring the safety of our national coastlines and seas.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT



Robert Courts MP

MINISTER FOR AVIATION, MARITIME AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY