



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency

Chief Executive
Maritime & Coastguard Agency
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG

www.gov.uk/mca

30 March 2022

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport

Dear Secretary of State,

House of Commons Statement – P&O Ferries

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my strongest assurances that the Maritime & Coastguard Agency will fulfil its obligations as a port State in respect of ensuring the safe operation of P&O Ferries.

We have taken note of the proposals that you presented to the House of Commons today, setting out measures that will increase protection to seafarers operating on ferries in the UK.

We understand that the Department for Transport will be putting measures in place to enable the UK port Authorities to ensure that the ferry operators, with whom they work, are paying their seafarers a minimum wage. We will work with you to ensure that any new regulations introduced will be enforced. Where the Maritime & Coastguard Agency is provided with the additional legal authority, that authority will be rigorously exercised. I can confirm that we will also immediately commence engagement with the operators of regular ferry services from UK ports, in respect of them making plans to meet these requirements.

The Maritime & Coastguard Agency will also supplement the enforcement role of HMRC on National Minimum Wage through our obligations under the Maritime Labour Convention within the remit of port State control.

During your statement to the House of Commons, you asked the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to review their maritime safety survey and inspection policies in order to provide assurance that they are fit for purpose. I can confirm that the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has a comprehensive understanding of its responsibilities as a port State as prescribed in the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea, the relevant international obligation in respect of maritime safety and the protection of the marine environment as well as the procedures for undertaking PSC inspections in accordance with the Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Johnson
Chief Executive



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE | Silver