



Department
for Transport

From the Minister of State
The Rt. Hon. John Hayes CBE MP

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Sir Alan Massey
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7 December 2017

Dear Alan,

CHANGES TO THE MARITIME AND COASTGAURD AGENCY FEES UNDER THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (FEES) REGULATIONS 2017

Thank you for your letter of 21 November outlining the proposed uplift in fees, albeit with some phasing in. Although I have agreed to this increase on the basis of your important assurances about the regularity and transparency of future increases, I want to emphasise my personal commitment to ensuring that we balance the recovery of costs against the very real day-to-day demands on the many small and medium sized businesses in the sector.

I would expect the MCA's work to refine the processes by which fees are raised to include an emphasis on predictability for business, whether by earlier signalling of the scale of future changes or by finding a way to compare any growth in fees to identifiable trends in costs across the maritime sector for similar services.

I do not wish to be prescriptive about how best to achieve this at this stage; I am confident that the proposals you bring forward for future fee uplifts will reflect both your own administrative requirements and the considered views of the sector. I look forward to those proposals in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon John Hayes CBE MP