



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

# Consultation on MSN 1899: Vessel Traffic Monitoring Notification and Reporting Requirements for Ships and Ports

## **Consultation Outcome Report**

Summary of consultee comments and government responses  
to them

January 2020

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## Section 1: Introduction

1. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), an executive Agency of the Department for Transport (DfT), carried out a public consultation in November 2019 on the proposed *MSN 1899 (M+F) Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Reporting Requirements for Ships and Ports*. The consultation was published on GOV.UK, and notifications of the consultation were sent to more than 600 shipping companies, port authorities, shipping agents, and Government Departments.
2. The consultation sought views on the proposed new Merchant Shipping Notice (MSN) which combines the information contained in the existing MSN 1831 and Marine Information Note (MIN) 540.
3. MSN 1831 and MIN 540 provide information on the obligations set out in *The Merchant Shipping (Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Reporting Requirements) Regulations 2004 (as amended)*. MSN 1831 was published in 2011 and provides guidance for ships and port authorities who are required to provide ship related information under the Regulations. MIN 540 was published in 2017 and explains subsequent revised process and the introduction of the “CERS Workbook”. The UK Consolidated European Reporting System (CERS) is an information management system which has been developed by the MCA to comply with the UK reporting obligations under the provisions of the Regulations and overarching EU Directive. MIN 540 expired on 6 February 2018 but the information contained therein is still relevant and up to date.
4. The intention of the MCA is to combine the information provided in MSN 1831 and MIN 540 into a single new Merchant Shipping Notice. This is because some of the information in MSN 1831 has been updated by 540 and it would make sense to incorporate the instructions on the CERS Workbook (contained in MIN 540) into the new MSN, thereby limiting the number of documents operators need to consult.

## Section 2: Consultation

5. The consultation was carried out between 1 - 15 November 2019. It can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-msn-xxx-vessel-traffic-monitoring-notification-and-reporting-requirements-for-ships-and-ports>
6. A total of ten (10) responses were received from the below listed consultees. Not all respondents answered all the questions posed. Some additional comments have been received. These have been fully considered.
  - Port of Truro (Cornwall Council)
  - Montrose Port Authority
  - Port of Tyne
  - Port of London Authority
  - Shoreham Port Authority
  - Bermuda Shipping & Maritime Authority
  - Wick Harbour Authority
  - Calmac Ferries Ltd
  - D&B Shipping Ltd
  - Forth Ports Ltd

## Section 3: Consultation outcome

**Question 1: Do you agree with the proposed merging of information contained in MSN 1831 and MIN 540 in order to reduce the number of documents operators need to consult?**

7. Eight (8) consultees answered *YES* to this question; two (2) consultees did not answer. The following supporting comments were also received:

- *MSN 1831 and MIN 540 relate to the same matter, therefore it makes sense to simplify the documentation by amalgamating them.*
- *In order to assist organisations with compliance we would actively encourage this approach.*

**Question 2: Do you believe that the merging of these two M-Notices will result in any additional costs for your organisation?**

8. Six (6) consultees answered *NO* to this question. Four (4) consultees did not answer. The following supporting comments were also received:

- *This change would not negatively impact the port.*
- *Our processes already reflect requirements previously covered in MSN 1831 and MIN 540 so no significant concerns here.*

### Other comments

9. *The Bermuda Shipping & Maritime Authority have considered the content of the draft... and have incorporated the relevant parts which would apply in the Bermuda context. Thanks for bringing this information to our attention and providing the opportunity to review and comment, and I confirm we have no changes to the UK proposed draft.*

### Government response

10. The MCA notes the above responses and comments, and thanks consultees for their participation.

## Section 4: Next steps

11. The MCA will officially publish the new MSN in January 2020.