

From

[REDACTED]

County Hall, High Street, Newport, Isle of Wight
PO30 1UD

Tel

[REDACTED]

Fax

[REDACTED]

DX

[REDACTED]

Web

www.iwight.com

Email

[REDACTED]

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Secretary of State
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P4DF
Via email only

Date: 7 May 2020

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Cross Solent Transport Disruption – Solent Exclusion Order

In accordance with Article 6 of the The Competition Act 1998 (Solent Maritime Crossings) (Coronavirus) (Public Policy Exclusion) Order 2020, I am writing to confirm the agreement reached between Hovertravel, Red Funnel/SIOW Ltd and Wightlink.

The Agreement between the three parties was facilitated through the Island Transport Infrastructure Board (IW TIB), [REDACTED] and provided for the service that the operators proposed and with which the IW TIB agreed, was the minimum that would meet the Island's key transport objectives of:

- Maintaining the lifeline deliveries of supplies, freight, medicines and post;
- Ensuring connectivity is maintained for NHS staff, Emergency Services and other essential key worker journeys;
- Ensuring rapid and reliable transfer onto and off the Island for patients to and from Southampton and Portsmouth hospitals;
- Ensure the Island Infrastructure has the resilience for all emergency preparedness, linking directly to the work or the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local resilience Forum (HIOW LRF).

Provision was made for an integrated timetable for car ferry and fast ferry (passenger) services utilising all three operators. A copy of this arrangement, together with a detailed

schedule of sailings was provided to the DfT on 31 March 2020 and is attached as Appendix 1 of this correspondence for information.

The three operators and the Isle of Wight Council Transport Infrastructure Board will continue to work together and communicate with one another to ensure the successful delivery of the minimum timetable for the duration of the Corona Virus crisis.

We would also welcome the opportunity to be part of any work and planning to facilitate understanding how we can move out of this period of disruption caused by coronavirus at the appropriate time.

Yours sincerely,

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