



From

[Redacted]

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

Tel

Fax

DX

Web

www.iwight.com

Email

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 competition@BEIS.gov.uk

Date: 12 February 2021

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. This agreement replaces the agreement that was previously notified, dated 7 May 2020.

The Agreement between the three parties was facilitated through the Island Transport Infrastructure Board (IW TIB) and provides for the service that the IWC and The IWTIB have agreed with the operators to 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 timetables across some routes for car ferry and fast ferry (passenger) services utilising all three operators. A copy of this scheduling, together with a

was provided to the DfT in November 2020 and is attached as Appendix 1 of this correspondence for information.

In order to ensure the objectives listed above are met the operators will when needed:

- co-ordinate to enable ticket acceptance, on other operators' services and will agree commercial terms to enable this to happen. These arrangements will be used to allow customers to travel on lifeline routes when a service or route they normally wish to use is not available for any reason. This could be due either to the lack of normal service or for reasons of service disruption which could compromise the lifeline service for any reason e.g. weather, technical failure, staff illness or industrial action.
- Undertake inter-operator resource discussions for the purpose of sharing staff members, in the event of possible impacts of Covid-19 to ensure the available skillset to operate lifeline services.
- Co-ordinate with each other to achieve consistency on Covid specific safety matters such as the implementation of government guidelines regarding mask wearing, social distancing, consumption of food and drink and any other regulations that impact on cross Solent ferry travel.
- Operate as a minimum the route-based schedule as set out in the appendix to this notification.

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.

This agreement will be discussed by operators and the TIB monthly and a formal review will be undertaken in April 2021.

Yours sincerely,

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Appendix 1 Schedule of Sailings on Routes November 2020

HOVERTRAVEL Pax & Fast Freight & Passenger Service

Monday – Friday		Saturday & Sunday	
Ryde	Southsea	Ryde	Southsea
0615	0630	0815	0830
0645	0700		
0715	0730	1015	1230
0915	0930	1215	1330
1115	1030	1415	1430
1315	1130	1615	1630
1515	1330	1815	1830
1645	1530	2015	2030
1715	1630	2015	2030
1845*	1700		
1715	1700		
1845*	1730		
1915	1900		
	1930		

*** Fast Freight Only**

WIGHTLINK Vehicle Ferry

Fishbourne	Portsmouth
0100	0300
0400	0500
0600	0600*
0700*	0700
0800	0800*
0900*	0900
1000	1000*
1100*	1100
1200	1300
1400	1500
1600	1700
1800	1900
2000	2200
2300	2359

*Mon-Fri only

WIGHTLINK Yarmouth - Lymington Vehicle Ferry

Yarmouth	Lymington
0730	0530
1005	0845
1205	1100
1505	1400
1705	1600
1900	1800
2110	2005

RED FUNNEL Vehicle Ferry

East Cowes	Southampton
0130	0300
0430	0600
0730	0730
0900	0900
1030	1030
1200	1200
1330	1330
1500	1500
1630	1630
1800	1800
1930	2100
2230	2355

RED FUNNEL Red Jet Passenger Ferry

East Cowes	Southampton
0615	0530
0735*	0655*
0855*	0815*
1655*	1615*
1815*	1735*
1935	1855*
2055	2015

*sat and sun also