



MARITIME
UK

MARITIME PARLIAMMENTARY BULLETIN

W/c 8 February 2021

The purpose of this bulletin is to update MPs and Peers on the latest developments in the UK maritime sector, and to provide a forward look to opportunities within parliamentary business for positive advocacy.

Recent developments and events

- **Quarantine hotel measures:** The maritime sector is calling on the Government to make seafarers exempt from the newly introduced quarantine hotel measures. The Government has previously recognised the essential role of seafarers and other key maritime workers, and have called for countries around the world to do the same. The current lack of exemptions for seafarers is therefore at odds with previous government policy. It is understood that Scotland currently exempts seafarers and those involved in essential supply chains from its hotel quarantine requirements. Seafarers work in an essential service, do not mingle with the population of high risk countries and already travel under strict health and safety protocols to mitigate risk. The newly introduced quarantine requirements threaten the livelihoods of seafarers, who are not currently supported by existing financial schemes related to Covid-19.
 - **Cruise restart:** As vaccines are rolled out across the UK and consumer confidence starts to increase, it is imperative that the cruise industry is not left behind the rest of the travel sector as the Government progresses its plans to open the economy. The cruise industry has through the UK Chamber of Shipping and CLIA worked for several months to agree to health protocols that go beyond those of other travel industries, and the industry ask remains the same: a request for clarity on restart planning in the recognition that the operational restart of a cruise ship can take up to three months. As more people are vaccinated there is a growing imperative for the Government to set out a clear timeline for cruise restart. Every quarter that restart is delayed is costing the UK economy £2.5bn, and
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it has been estimated that the voluntary suspension of cruise operation in March 2020 has already cost nearly £7bn and 52,000 jobs.

- **Freeports:** The application window for ports in England to apply for freeport status closed last Friday, 5 February. The ports industry has welcomed the Government's recognition of the important role ports play in supporting innovation and prosperity in coastal communities that the freeports consultation represents, and have now set out their key priorities to take ambitions forward:
 - **Fair and transparent selection process:** For industry and potential investors it is important that the selection process is fair and evidence based. This means that enough time and flexibility must also be given so that the most benefits can be captured.
 - **High standards and a sound regulatory environment** will ensure all ports can benefit from the efforts to develop freeports around the country. Port operators are committed to delivering the benefits of freeports in a sustainable manner
 - **Freeports are not a silver bullet** and must be seen as one element of a wider 'levelling up' strategy for coastal communities around the UK.
 - **Level playing fields across UK nations:** There is significant interest in developing freeports in each of the Devolved Nations, and while Scotland accepted the Government's freeports offer, Northern Ireland and Wales are urged to follow suit.

 - **Vaccinations for maritime key workers:** Acknowledging the pressures on vaccination capabilities, the UK's maritime sector is asking the Government to prioritise maritime key workers for Covid-19 vaccinations, recognising their vital role in keeping trade flowing and the country supplied with essential goods such as food, energy and medicine. Setting an international precedent, Singapore, a key global maritime hub, recently started offering vaccinations to frontline maritime personnel.
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- **Government grant support in Cornwall:** Business leader from across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are backing calls for more grant support from government, after the latest round of funding for pandemic-hit local businesses was over-subscribed by £14.5m. In a letter to the Chancellor, more urgent support is requested as the latest round of discretionary funding awarded to Cornwall and Scilly does not reflect the area's higher prevalence of businesses that fall outside mandatory grant schemes, nor the importance of the tourism industry in the region, which has been badly hit by the effects of Covid-19. As there are parts of the UK which have not used their full allocation of discretionary funding, it has been suggested that some of these funds could be reallocated. The letter calls for an additional £20.3m in discretionary grant funding to cover current and future demand if lockdown endures, an extension of the VAT reduction, deferral of tax payments and loan repayments, more flexibility on business rates, and an extension of the furlough scheme beyond April 2021.
 - **Floating offshore wind in the South West:** The Celtic Sea is one of the main sites for the deployment of floating offshore wind in the UK, where wind turbines are deployed on floating platforms at depths where traditional fixed turbines are not viable. Analysis shows that the Celtic Sea wind resource is 100GW+, surpassing the needs of the British grid. The Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership (CIOSLEP) is leading on a regional initiative to deploy floating offshore wind in the Celtic Sea, with a target of 3WG installed capacity by 2030. Four different pipeline projects are currently being conducted, and together, these could establish the South West as a world-leader within offshore floating wind, attract large inward investment with associated jobs, help deliver the Offshore Wind Sector Deal's target of increasing UK offshore wind work content to 60%, and grow exports.
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UK maritime news

- New maritime chair looks to shake up public perception – [Lloyd's List](#)
- Ports set out Freeports priorities ahead of application deadline – [British Ports Association](#)
- Freeports: Next steps to make them a reality in the UK – [UK Major Ports Group](#)
- The Workboat Association joins Maritime UK – [Maritime UK](#)
- Captain Susan Cloggie-Holden achieves 'dream' job and makes RFA history – [Nautilus International](#)
- UK Chamber of Shipping signs Neptune Declaration – [UK Chamber of Shipping](#)
- Maritime UK shine a spotlight on mental health on Time to Talk Day – [Maritime UK](#)
- Just the job: 'Positive disruptors' help add diversity to interviews - [TradeWinds](#)

Upcoming Parliamentary opportunities to promote maritime

Suggested questions, statements and briefing material can be provided on request.

Commons

We would be delighted if MPs would be willing to use any opportunities at PMQs and Business of the House Questions to promote the UK maritime industry (these questions are drafted to be suitable as either oral or written parliamentary questions):

- **PMQs – Wednesdays:** We would be delighted if MPs would be willing to raise maritime at PMQs if they are selected in the ballot, and happy to support in drafting a question
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- **24 Feb** – COP26 questions – To ask the COP26 President, what discussions he has held regarding the role maritime decarbonisation will play in COP26.
- **25 Feb** – International trade questions – To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what support her department is providing to the UK maritime industry to increase their international exports.

Additionally, we are looking to arrange a Backbench Business debate and/or Westminster Hall debate on maritime – if you are able to help support this, please contact barney.scholes@beyond2050.co.uk

Lords

The following oral questions in the House of Lords represent opportunities for maritime to be raised:

- **16 Feb – Oral question:** Aims for the outcome of COP26

We would be delighted if parliamentarians would be willing to table requests for parliamentary debates on the UK maritime industry, and we can support with suggestions for these.

Written Questions

We are also happy to support parliamentarians with ideas and production of additional written questions.

The maritime industry - key messages

- Maritime contributes **£46.1bn to the UK economy and supports 1 million jobs** (more than air and rail combined).
 - Maritime is **responsible for keeping the country supplied** (resilience): 95 percent of British imports and exports in goods are moved by sea, including 25 percent of the UK's energy
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supply and 48 percent of food supplies. Investment is essential for maintaining these resilient supply chains that every constituent relies upon.

- Ports **invest over £600m of private capital each year**, benefiting coastal economies through job creation and infrastructure investment.
- Maritime workers are **43% more productive** than UK average.
- Maritime is a source of **well-paid highly skilled roles**, which pay an average of £38,000 per year - £9,000 more than the national average.
- Globally, **the maritime sector will double to \$3trn by 2030**.
- Maritime makes a significant contribution to **all nations and regions of the United Kingdom**.

Maritime UK's priorities for the year ahead

Over the coming year, Maritime UK intends to focus on the following priorities, both by engaging with the UK maritime industry, and by working constructively with the Government and other political stakeholders:

- **Supporting maritime businesses and the UK maritime industry through Brexit changes**, as well as maximising the opportunities that arise from the UK once again becoming an independent trading nation.
 - **Boosting the export and international trade potential of UK maritime** and improving the competitiveness of the UK's business environment to attract maritime businesses.
 - **Delivering regional growth** through Maritime UK's Regional Cluster Development Plans in a way that aligns with the Government's wider levelling-up agenda.
 - **Demonstrating the benefits (both environmental and economic) of maritime decarbonisation** ahead of the COP26 UN Climate Conference taking place in the UK this year, with a particular focus on **innovation** – Maritime UK will be working with the Government to ensure that funding allocated for maritime decarbonisation is effectively utilised.
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- **Supporting and growing the workforce** by continuing to develop our Diversity in Maritime Programme, our Careers and Outreach Programme, and our Maritime Skills Commission.

Please email barney.scholes@beyond2050.co.uk for further information.

You can follow our Maritime UK Twitter account [here](#), and our website is [here](#).
