



MARITIME
UK

MARITIME PARLIAMMENTARY BULLETIN

W/c 22 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

- **2021 budget:** Next week will see the announcement of the 2021 Budget, and Maritime UK has set out the key priorities for the maritime sector in its 2021 Maritime UK Budget Submission, which can be [seen here](#). The three main priorities for the sector are:
 - Maritime decarbonisation and a green recovery;
 - Regional growth and levelling up across the country, and;
 - Promoting international trade and inward investment

We will next week be in touch with suggested questions of clarification to the Budget on behalf of the maritime sector.

- **Cruise restart:** The announcement of the next steps leading to a gradual restart of domestic and international travel has been welcomed by the UK cruise industry, as represented by the UK Chamber of Shipping and CLIA. They will engage with government as part of the Global Travel Taskforce to facilitate a safe restart for cruise at home and abroad in the coming months. The health and safety of passengers will remain a priority, and the cruise industry has over the past year been working with government to develop detailed protocols that will allow cruising to resume safely.
 - **Quarantine hotel exemptions:** The maritime sector continues to stress the importance of exempting seafarers and other key maritime workers from quarantine hotel measures when arriving from red-list countries. The Government has previously recognised the essential
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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. 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.

- **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.
 - **Consumer confidence:** The UK ports industry is calling on government to instil confidence in travellers as part of their roadmap out of the pandemic, as an analysis of the Department for Transport's 2020 sea passenger data by the British Ports Association show the lowest passenger numbers in 60 years. The 6.9 million short-sea passengers in 2020, which includes freight drivers as well as tourists, is the greatest year-on-year fall in passengers since records began in 1952. Ports are calling on the Government to bolster confidence in the travel industry as restrictions are eased and to note ferry travel as one of the safer and more 'Covid-19'-secure means of travel.
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UK maritime news

- Maritime UK publishes budget submission ahead of 2021 Budget announcement – [Maritime UK](#)
- Lowest passenger numbers in 60 years: Ports industry calls for government to instil confidence – [British Ports Association](#)
- Maritime UK welcomes Aberdeen Harbour Board as the first Diversity in Maritime sponsor – [Maritime UK](#)
- Nautilus Federation unions call for global seafarer vaccination programme – [Nautilus International](#)
- Kevin Shakesheff appointed Vice President of the Institute – [Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers](#)
- LBGT+ History Month: Being a good ally – [Maritime UK](#)
- UK shipping beyond Brexit – [Maritime London](#)
- Trade liberalisation a rapid route to recovery – [The Baltic Exchange](#)

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
- **3-4 March - Budget debate** – To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what support the Budget will provide for the maritime sector.
- **4 March – DEFRA** – To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what discussions his department has held regarding the role decarbonising the maritime sector can play in improving air quality.
- **9 March – Treasury** – To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what support the Treasury is providing to the maritime sector.
- **10 March – Scotland** – To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what support his department is providing to the Scottish maritime sector.
- **11 March – Transport** – To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what support his department is providing to the maritime sector.
- **15 March – Defence** – To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what support his department is providing to support the naval shipbuilding sector.
- **17 March – Wales** - To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what support his department is providing to the Welsh maritime sector.

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

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 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.
- **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](#).
