

MPC expresses concern over situation at P&O Ferries

The Maritime Professional Council (MPC) of the UK notes with concern the termination of the employment of 800 UK seafarers employed by P&O Ferries and the detrimental impact this has on the reputation of the industry as a whole.

The MPC wishes to highlight the blow the loss of these seagoing posts will have on the ongoing efforts to increase the number of UK seafarers and maintain Britain's position as a significant maritime nation. At a stroke it undermines the UK Maritime Strategy.

While the MPC recognises that most UK officers will serve on ships registered outside the UK, now is the time to consider urgently what further policy measures could be put in place to retain a core fleet of UK-manned ships. Maintaining such a fleet is needed to, among other things, enable junior officers to gain sea experience for their higher certificates and maintain a credible maritime skill-base. Equally, action needs to be taken so that the already small number of UK ratings does not diminish further.

The high-profile events at P&O Ferries will inevitably be damaging to the reputation of the Merchant Navy as a well-respected career. It will make it much harder to recruit high-calibre entrants to the shipping industry. If nothing is done, this terrible episode for those losing their jobs will have a long-lasting impact on our industry far beyond the immediate fall-out at P&O.

The MPC urges that swift action be taken to address these serious issues.

For more information, please contact David Hughes.
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Notes for Editors – the MPC comprises:

Honourable Company of Master Mariners

The Honourable Company of Master Mariners encourages and maintains a high and honourable standard of ability and professional conduct in the officers of the British Merchant Navy.

International Institute of Marine Surveying

IIMS is the leading professional body for the marine surveying profession with over 1,000 members whose job it is to survey and inspect vessels of all shapes and sizes.

Institute of Seamanship

The Institute of Seamanship promotes seamanship through education and training as a practical skill requiring knowledge, experience and common sense.

The Nautical Institute

The aim of The Nautical Institute is to promote professionalism, best practice and safety throughout the maritime industry and to represent the interests of their members.

Trinity House

Trinity House is a charity dedicated to safeguarding shipping and seafarers, providing education, support and welfare to the seafaring community with a statutory duty as a General Lighthouse Authority to deliver reliable, efficient and cost-effective aids to navigation service for the benefit and safety of all mariners.

United Kingdom Maritime Pilots Association

The UKMPA represents approximately 500 highly skilled UK Maritime Pilots. Their role is to safely navigate ships in and out of the United Kingdom's waterways and ports.

The Professional Charter Association is a non-profit making organisation that promotes and protects the interest of its members and the safety of passengers, Crews and vessels at all times.

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