



PORTLAND PORT

Port Talk

News from Portland Port

Spring 2023

All aboard!

Welcome to the first edition of our Port Talk newsletter to keep you updated about latest developments and news at Portland Port.

There's always lots happening at the port, whether it is cruise ship visits, multi-million-pound regeneration work or plans for a refugees' accommodation facility.

Many thanks for picking up Port Talk - we hope you find it of interest.



MSC Virtuosa, which docked at Portland this spring with 5000 passengers on board - the largest number on a single cruise ship so far

Cruising to a record 2023

More cruise ship passengers than ever before are setting their sights on Portland this year.

A record 130,000 guests are due to arrive during 2023 as vessels get larger and the area becomes increasingly popular as a destination among cruise lines and their guests.

We've already welcomed the spectacular MSC Virtuosa with 5,000 passengers onboard – the most people on a single cruise ship to visit Portland – among 21 calls over the spring, and many more are due throughout the summer.

It is always an absolute pleasure to welcome new and returning cruise ships and their passengers.

A lot of hard work has gone into putting Portland on the map over the past 10 years and now we are seeing record numbers of passengers arriving in 2023, with a 23% increase on 2022.

While some go on trips to Stonehenge or Salisbury, the majority tend to take advantage of organised excursions in the south Dorset area, or stay local by using our complimentary bus service.

We're always incredibly grateful to everyone who gives our cruise passengers such a warm welcome.

Cruise calls at Portland Port are worth about £10m annually to the local economy.

Quay to success as £26m regeneration project is completed

Our new deep-water berth is officially open for business! The MSC Virtuosa christened the new quay when she visited earlier in the spring.

Now fully operational, it is part of a £26m redevelopment project to enhance our cruise and cargo handling operations as well as our service provision to vessels including those from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

It is the largest investment in the port's history, and certainly our most ambitious.

Increasing our infrastructure is key to continued growth at the port and our ability to build upon our contribution to the local economy.

The new quay will allow us to welcome some of the largest cruise ships in the world as well as provide greater support to our customers and tenants.

The redevelopment has included replacement of the port's deep water berth with a new, extended berth plus an extension to its Outer Coaling Pier.

Overall, the project has delivered 16,000 sq m of additional quayside space.

For more information visit www.portland-port.co.uk

Plans in place for the Bibby Stockholm

Portland Port is working closely with the Home Office to ensure the safe and successful operation of an accommodation facility for asylum seekers.

We understand that there are genuine concerns about the vessel and we wish to reassure local people that a great deal of effort and co-ordination is being carried out in relation to such issues as security, policing and health provision.

A Multi-Agency Forum (MAF) has been working locally involving local agencies, councils, police, emergency services and community groups to prepare for the barge, called the Bibby Stockholm.

The Home Office is liaising with Dorset Police to ensure appropriate security arrangements are in place and with the NHS for the provision of medical care.

Our aim at Portland Port has always been – and remains – to minimise the impact of the accommodation facility on local services and the community, and maximise its benefit. This may include jobs as well as direct and indirect spend by the vessel's operators in the local supply chain.

We have a strong vested interest in the safe operation of the facility for our business, local people and the refugees themselves.

We believe that concerns about crime and antisocial behaviour have proven to be unfounded at accommodation sites elsewhere and there is no reason to expect any different here.

The refugees will be given advice, including about cultural sensitivities and behaviour. In addition, some of the refugees coming to Portland will have already been in the country for some

Keeping in touch

We want to keep local people as informed as possible about the asylum seekers' accommodation facility.

A regularly updated Home Office factsheet can be found on the Portland Port website, as well as other information about the vessel.

We are also sharing information with elected representatives of local authorities and other stakeholders, and through the media.

time staying at hotels so they will have an understanding of UK culture and expectations.

There is a strong incentive for the refugees to be law-abiding because they are in the latter stages of their asylum assessment.

We believe offering refugees a safe haven at Portland is the right thing to do and we hope that local people will also approach the barge and the people on board with an open mind.

About Portland Port



Portland Port has operated on a commercial basis since 1996.

It employs 53 staff and lets space to a number of tenants, including dry and liquid bulk cargo

businesses, which provide employment for 270 people.

The port also provides maritime and marine related services, including berthing facilities for visiting vessels.

The port is operated by the Portland Port Group.

For more information visit www.portland-port.co.uk