



Maritime Parliamentary Bulletin

July 2023

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.

Latest

Maritime Council

On 21 June, the Department for Transport (DfT) hosted the first meeting of the Maritime Council to oversee the delivery of recommendations in the Maritime 2050 strategy. Co-chaired by the Maritime Minister, Baroness Vere, and Maritime UK's National Chair, Robin Mortimer, the Maritime Council was set up in response to the Transport Select Committee's final report on Maritime 2050, which urged government and industry to work closely together to streamline the Strategy's 185 recommendations, and to set key performance indicators and targets for each of them.

Industry view: Maritime UK welcomed the recommendations in the Transport Select Committee's Report, especially with regard to ensuring continued funding for Maritime UK's regional cluster development programme, addressing the scaling-up gap in the long-term investment of mature technologies that will help achieve net zero, engaging with industry on barriers facing industry in the development of key infrastructure, removing barriers to domestic training and employment opportunities for UK resident seafarers, and reviewing the Mode Shift Revenue Support Scheme and Waterborne Freight Grant.

We would be grateful if parliamentarians would consider submitting the following suggested written question:

- "To ask the Research and Innovation Minister if he will meet with Maritime UK to discuss the need for government to develop a research & development strategy for the UK maritime sector."
- "To ask the Planning Minister whether she will meet with Maritime UK to talk about the barriers to the delivery on infrastructure required to help the UK maritime sector achieve its decarbonisation journey."
- "To ask the Levelling Up Minister if she will meet again with Maritime UK to discuss in greater detail existing maritime regional cluster activity and examine plans for future expansion of the programme".

Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Group on Maritime and Shipbuilding

The Cross-Party Group on Maritime and Shipbuilding met on 12 June in Holyrood, chaired by Paul Sweeney MSP, to talk about maritime decarbonisation and the green transition. John Adams, Managing Director of V. Ships UK, and Tom Bartosak-Harlow, Director of Communications for the UK Chamber of Shipping, discussed the importance of investment in infrastructure, skills, and innovation to achieve the green transition by 2030. The Group also embarked on an educational visit to HMS Balmoral.

Home Shipbuilding Credit Guarantee Scheme

Published in March 2022, the National Shipbuilding Strategy (NSbS) Refresh included a commitment to introduce a Home Shipbuilding Credit Guarantee Scheme. The scheme would support UK vessel builders through a UK Government-backed guarantee at a market-oriented price to finance the purchase of UK ships by UK buyers and aims to help UK vessel owner/operators and prospective buyers to access finance when commissioning new vessels or undertaking vessel refits and repairs.

The Government remains committed to introducing the scheme in the Summer of 2023.

Industry view: Maritime UK is very concerned that the Home Shipbuilding Credit Guarantee Scheme has not been launched and believes its introduction to be a key enabler of a renaissance in UK shipbuilding. Failure to introduce the scheme is hitting the order books of domestic yards and threatens the success of the National Shipbuilding Strategy as a whole.

We would be grateful if parliamentarians would consider submitting the following suggested written question:

- “To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade for an update on progress on the introduction of a Home Shipbuilding Credit Guarantee Scheme.”

New Maritime UK CEO

Chris Shirling-Rooke MBE has joined Maritime UK as Chief Executive Office on 1 July 2023 from Mersey Maritime – the maritime cluster organisation for the Liverpool City Region – where he has championed the role of maritime in driving economic growth in coastal communities across the UK.

Commenting, Chris said: “It is an incredible honour for me to take on this new position and to build on the fantastic work already delivered by the Maritime UK team on behalf of its members, stakeholders, and the industry as whole. Major overarching challenges face our sector which supports over 1 million jobs, contributes over £46bn to our economy and is responsible for facilitating 95% of UK global trade.”

Recent Updates from Maritime UK

- [A magical evening for all at the Marine Trades Association Awards Dinner](#)
- [Ports looking for more FLOW funding commitments](#)
- [CLIA announces host of trade initiatives and activities at largest ever annual conference](#)
- [First Speakers Announced for LISW23 Headline Conference](#)
- ["Happy at Sea" mobile app revolutionises welfare support available to seafarers worldwide](#)
- [MUK Solent and Business Leaders Showcase Success of Region's Maritime Cluster to the Department for Transport](#)
- [Mersey Maritime Announces Ruth Wood as Interim CEO](#)
- [Proud to be visible in maritime](#)
- [PSS conference: Improving standards through collaboration](#)
- [Harland & Wolff lead UK consortium to build green tugs](#)
- [Chamber gives Evidence on Arctic to Parliamentary Inquiry](#)
- [Maritime Safety Week 2023](#)

Events for Parliamentarians

11 September (13:30) – Maritime UK Parliamentary Cruise

We are delighted to invite parliamentarians to join our Maritime UK Parliamentary Cruise taking place on 11 September between 13:30 and 15:00 during London Industry Shipping Week. Departing from Westminster Pier, we will be cruising along the historic Thames with specially invited industry stakeholders. Please RSVP to: publicaffairs@maritimeuk.email

1 October (19:30)– Maritime Reception at Conservative Party Conference

The Secretary of State for Transport and the Maritime Minister have both been invited to address the event. Accreditation to attend the conference will be required for this event which is in the secure zone.

1 October (21:00) – Maritime UK Private Dinner at Conservative Party Conference

This event will be held outside the secure zone but within easy reach of the main conference venues. As such, accreditation will not be required. Members will be invited to send representatives to this dinner which will include an opportunity for policy related discussion. Further details will follow as soon as possible.

7 October (TBC) – Ferry across the Mersey with Shadow Ministers

This event will be held outside the secure zone but within easy reach of the main conference venues. As such, accreditation will not be required to attend. Mike Kane MP, Shadow Maritime Minister and Bill Esterson MP, Shadow Minister for Business and Industry will be in attendance. Spaces will be limited but members are invited to send representatives to this event. Further details and the registration process will be confirmed as soon as possible.

8 October (19:30) – Maritime Reception at Labour Party Conference

The Shadow Secretary of State Business and Industrial Strategy (Jonathan Reynolds MP) and the Shadow Secretary of State for Climate Change & Net Zero (Ed Miliband MP) have been invited to attend and speak. Accreditation to attend the conference will be required for this event which is in the secure zone.

Upcoming parliamentary opportunities to promote maritime

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

House of 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 are happy to provide support in drafting a question.

House of Lords

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

Written Questions

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

Consultations and Inquiries

- Cabinet Office, [Part 1 Consultation on draft regulations to implement the Procurement Bill](#) (Deadline: 28 July)
- Department for Business and Trade, [Trade with Maldives: call for input](#) (Deadline: 2 August)
- Energy Security and Net Zero Committee, [Inquiry: A flexible Grid for the future](#) (Deadline 25 August)

Maritime UK and its members will be responding to the above consultations and inquiries. To discuss these, please contact gbuttironi@maritimeuk.org

The Maritime Sector - Key Messages

- Maritime **contributed a total of £116 billion in turnover** and **supported over 1 million jobs** (more than air and rail combined).
- Maritime is **responsible for keeping the country supplied**: 95% of British imports and exports in goods are moved by sea, including 25% of the UK's energy supply and 48% 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**.
- In **Maritime 2050**, the UK has a strategy to become the world's most competitive maritime centre by the middle of the century.
- Maritime makes a significant contribution to **all nations and regions of the United Kingdom**.

Please email publicaffairs@maritimeuk.email for further information.

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