

4th July 2016

Dear Mr Crabb,

Letter to the next Prime Minister from the UK maritime industry

The maritime industry contributes £22.2bn to UK GDP and supports 500,000 jobs. Its sectors include shipping, ports, marine and business services. Today, the UK is one of the leading maritime centres in the world. As one of Britain's leading generators of economic benefit, the maritime sector welcomes the opportunity to be in the forefront of the Government's programme to re-focus and re-invigorate economic growth following the decision made by the electorate on 23 June.

The maritime industry is busy working toward implementing the recommendations included in government's recent Maritime Growth Study launched in September 2015, which represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to drive forward an ambitious agenda for growth, to promote the UK as a world-class maritime sector and to unite the maritime community in meeting the challenges of tomorrow. The importance of implementing this growth agenda is all the more significant in light of the British public's decision to leave the EU in the referendum on 23 June. More than ever, the UK must embrace free trade to help grow our economy and deliver prosperity across the country. The maritime industry is the engine of free trade, and the vehicle for future prosperity. Put simply, it is the maritime industry's job to ensure that the UK is open for business.

In the weeks ahead, the maritime industry will be setting out its priorities for the forthcoming Brexit negotiations. In the meantime, our industry stands ready to assist the government in this programme as we move forward in pursuit of a shared and ambitious agenda for growth.

As the UK looks to a future outside the EU, we must once again become a great international trading nation. The maritime industry will play its part in facilitating this future - supporting jobs, driving innovation and enabling trade – and stands ready to meet with you to discuss how, together, government and industry can deliver for the future of our people.

Yours sincerely,

**David Dingle CBE**
Chairman

4th July 2016

Dear Mr Fox,

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Dear Mr Gove,

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Dear Mrs Leadsom,

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Dear Mrs May,

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