



- The Minister noted that ahead with her meeting with the Home Office next week was keen to hear from MCA directly on their proposal re. **migrant-carrying small boats in the English Channel**. Brian talked through the challenges faced with the proposal Home Office have suggested including taking migrant boats back to France, intentionally taking boats out of action and interrupting the boats in French waters. Are a number of tricky considerations and risks for MCA with these proposals.
- The Minister noted she completely understood that the role of the MCA was not to be border control and that they had obligation to safety of lives at sea. Secretary of State will of course want to support Home Office any way we can and work cooperatively with cabinet colleagues on this. Ultimately it is Home Office who will need to own the risk.
- James outlined some of the work we have already done to take real leadership here and provide info and support to Home Office. Happy to provide more information and briefing ahead of the Home Office meeting.
- Brian noted there was no real need to get into detail of **MCA response to COVID19**, Minister has already seen regular updates on this. Have seen decrease in search and rescue incidents and operations been running well. For them are thinking about **restart** and how to get surveys and inspections and back up and running, getting oral examinations up to date and working with RNLI to ensure smooth transition as lockdown eases.
- Minister noted that it had been really **helpful to have Katy Ware join a number of stakeholder engagement calls** to provide expertise and advice on some of the more operational matters she is much closer to, so thank you for that.
- Brian discussed how he thought there was a real opportunity for the **UK Ship Register** in more medium-term to leverage of excellent level of support and standards exemplified during the recent crisis compared to other states. Lots of issues to work through but could be chance to really show how it can contribute positively to rebuilding the UK economy. Will be preparing submission and presentation on this package and would be good to discuss with the Minister, perhaps in June.
- Minister confirmed that she thinks we will need to build strong evidence base to argue for some of the measures but agrees that we should use both support provided to companies not on UK flag during recent crisis, and the UK's upcoming exit from the EU and increasing importance for us to be strong, independent island nation to try and grow the flag.
- Brian updated briefly that there still remains the challenge of tackling the **backlog of UK Maritime Safety Legislation**. This includes ones postponed or delayed due to election/reshuffle/coronavirus including Grandfather Rights, and packages yet to come to the Minister due to being held back because of recent pressures on Ministerial time.
- Brian updated on the report that has been completed into **government-funded emergency tugs**. A submission on this will be seen to the Minister soon. Would be good to discuss this in more detail at later date.
- Brian thanked the minister for her and Secretary of State's feedback on the **RNIR programme** submission. These points are very valid and will ensure they are reflected in redrafted letter.
- Minister updated Brian that there have been a number of examples recently where they have had financial programmes come under intense scrutiny and micro-management or even been denied by HMT, even where full financial burden is with DfT. Appreciate this programme has been signed off previously but for CST will be a brand new programme and is very significant amount of money so are expecting him to push back unless we can really exemplify why it is important to do now, including drawing out the cross-government and wider economic benefits. Need to be really explicit about these. Suspects CST may want a call to discuss and if so will need to be armed with detail on this. It may be that we are completely wrong and CST waves it through but not experience had so far and better to be prepared!
- Brian provided brief update on **search and rescue helicopters** second generation programme which they are hoping will ensure they have the right assets in the right place and leave to significant savings for the taxpayer.
- Minister and Brian agreed to catch up again in a couple of months.

**Name**

Private Secretary to Kelly Tolhurst MP, Minister for Aviation,  
Maritime & Security,

5/23, Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 4DR

PD

473

PD

241

[Follow us on twitter @transportgovuk](https://twitter.com/transportgovuk)

Please note that all e-mails and their attachments sent by a Private Secretary on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision or comment made by a Minister, or note of a Ministerial meeting, should be filed appropriately by the recipient. DfT Private Office does not keep official records of such e-mails or documents attached to, or forwarded with, them.

---

The information in this email may be confidential or otherwise protected by law. If you received it in error, please let us know by return e-mail and then delete it immediately, without printing or passing it on to anybody else.

Incoming and outgoing e-mail messages are routinely monitored for compliance with our policy on the use of electronic communications and for other lawful purposes.

---

This email has been scanned by the BT Assure MessageScan service  
The service is delivered in partnership with Symantec.cloud

For more information please visit <http://www.globalservices.bt.com>

=====