

## P&O FERRIES REPORTS HIGHEST ANNUAL FREIGHT VOLUMES IN TEN YEARS ON ZEEBRUGGE-TILBURY ROUTE

Release time: immediate

P&O FERRIES today reports that it carried more freight between Zeebrugge and Tilbury in 2017 than in any other year in the decade long history of the route.

The integrated ferry and logistics company carried 185,908 freight units between January and December - an increase of 4.3 per cent on last year and surpassing the previous best 12 monthly figure set in 2016.

Nick Pank, P&O Ferries' Head of Freight - North Sea, said: "These outstanding volumes show the growing popularity of the route from the continent to Tilbury, which we expect to rival Calais-Dover as a gateway to Britain within ten years."

"Given the strategic location of Tilbury - which is the closest port to London and has 18 million people living within 75 miles - the vast majority of the goods we carry are consumables such as wines, spirits, dairy, water and a wide range of other supermarket products."

"Freight customers like the route because we can load and unload our ships in just four hours, thereby enabling them to get out of the port gates and on to the road quicker than if they travel with any of our competitors. The time it takes for our customers to drop off and collect units at the port of Tilbury is also exceptional - for a trailer it is 20 minutes and for a lift unit it is 30 minutes."

P&O Ferries operates two ferries on the route - the 20,000 ton sister ships *Norstream* and *Norsky* - sailing 24 times a week in total on crossings which last eight hours each.

Zeebrugge is the company's main continental hub. Overseas exporters to Britain benefit from P&O Ferries' dedicated freight routes from Zeebrugge to Teesport and Hull as well as Tilbury. The company has enhanced rail facilities at the port which handle the growing proportion of its cargoes originating in Central and Eastern Europe. And exporters from Britain benefit from onward connectivity to northern Spain and Gothenburg via services operated by lines in partnership with P&O Ferries.

P&O Ferries is a leading pan-European ferry and logistics company, sailing 27,000 times a year on eight major routes between Britain, France, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Holland and Belgium. It operates more than 20 vessels which carry 10 million passengers and 2.2 million freight units annually.

Together with its logistics division, P&O Ferrymasters, the company also operates integrated road and rail links to countries across the continent including Italy, Poland, Germany, Spain and Romania. P&O Ferrymasters also owns a rail terminal in the Romanian city of Oradea, which facilitates the onward movement of goods to Britain from Asian countries via the Silk Road.

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