

18 May 2020

Aubrey Fawcett  
Chief Executive  
Inverclyde Council  
Municipal Buildings  
Clyde Square  
Greenock  
PA15 1LY

**ITEM 7**  
**APPENDIX 1a**

Dear Aubrey

### **Cruise Ships in the Clyde**

I am writing in response to your letter of 6<sup>th</sup> May on the matter of a lay-up of cruise ships on the Clyde.

We have been approached by a number of cruise lines to provide safe and temporary anchorages for passenger-less vessels whilst not in service.

There is already a strict, well-established protocol in place for any vessel arriving at any port, to make a "Maritime Declaration of Health" prior to arrival. Should an issue - including a covid-19 case be declared - then the local port health team will assess and advise the recommended steps to take. . Once vessels are alongside, we have a range of measures in place to maintain social distancing to protect both ship's crew and shoreside personnel from disease transmission. These protocols ensure the safety of all vessels calling into port, including those unloading and loading cargo.

The ships requiring anchorage will have a minimal crew on board and their interface with the shoreside will be no different to – perhaps even less than - any other cargo ship calling into Greenock. As such, I cannot see any reason why cruise vessels using the port for layup should be treated any differently to any other ship calling on the Clyde.

Whilst it is of a primary importance to consider the health emergency, we also need to recognise that in the weeks ahead, once we have beaten the virus and looked after our people, our thoughts will need to focus on the economic challenges. It has not gone unnoticed within the cruise industry that Inverclyde have been unwilling to support the sector when it needed practical help and at a time when other ports in Scotland and around the wider UK and Ireland coastline have been more accommodating.

#### **Peel Ports Limited**

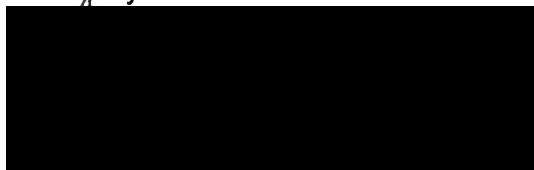
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Looking after all our people and visitors alike will remain our primary importance. We will continue to do this by following government guidance and by working with the local port health teams as we do on all vessel arrivals. You can be assured that we share the same desire to keep the local population, the port workforce and crews of visiting ships as safe as possible at all times, but especially now.

Whilst at this current time, there are no confirmed vessels due for anchorage at Inverclyde, we will continue to communicate with Port Health and advise accordingly of any further requests or developments.

Yours sincerely



Mark Whitworth  
Chief Executive Officer

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