



Minutes of the Caithness Transport Forum

Date: 21/06/2016

Time: 2:00pm

Location: Pentland Hotel, Thurso

Present

Trudy Morris	Caithness Chamber of Commerce (Chair)
David Swanson	Caithness Chamber of Commerce (Minute Secretary)
Billy Manson	Association of Caithness Community Councils
Eann Sinclair	Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership
David Flear	Dounreay Stakeholder Group
Mike Lunan	Friends of the Far North Line
Cllr Donnie Mackay	Highland Council
Cllr Gillian Coghill	Highland Council
Cllr Roger Saxon	Highland Council
Cllr Willie Mackay	Highland Council
Colin Howell	Highland Council
Frank Roach	HITRANS
Naomi Bremner	HITRANS
Gail Ross MSP	Scottish Parliament
Sandy Mackie	Scrabster Harbour
James Linklater	Serco NorthLink Ferries
Kris Bevan	Serco NorthLink Ferries
Steve Walker	Stagecoach North Scotland
Jean Lipa	Thurso Community Council
Marco Bardelli	Transport Scotland
Dr Paul Monaghan MP	UK Parliament
Karl Rosie	UK Parliament

1. Welcome and apologies

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all present for attending.

1.2 Apologies were received from:

June Love	Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd
Alex Macmanus	Highland Council
Ian MacGillivray	Highland Council
CLlr Neil MacDonald	Highland Council
Mark Norton	North Rail Line Action Group
Anna MacConnell	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Michelle MacRae	ScotRail
Howard Little	Stagecoach

2. Minutes of last CTF meeting 03.03.2016

2.1 Dr Paul Monaghan MP noted that he had sent apologies for the last meeting.

2.2 There being no further changes or amendments, and subsequent to these amendments being made, the minutes were adopted as a true record of the last meeting.

3. Review of actions from last meeting

3.1 **CTF(2015)M004/A004** – *Ian Stewart to take back issues with lighting on Thurso Bridge and Sir George's Street. COMPLETE*

Trudy Morris noted that no update had been received from BEAR but that Marco Bardelli was able to update the Forum on this matter. Marco noted that BEAR have the necessary equipment and hope to have the replacement in place within the month.

Trudy asked Marco to provide a firmer date for this.

CTF(2016)M002/A001 – *Marco Bardelli to provide firm date for completion of Thurso lighting works*

3.2 **CTF(2015)M004/A005** – *Ian Stewart to circulate BEAR programme of works for 2016 once available. COMPLETE*

Marco noted that he had some information on this and would update under the appropriate agenda item.

3.3 **CTF(2015)M004/A006** – *Iain Wilson to confirm date for ScotRail / HITRANS rail forum. ONGOING*

Trudy noted that there was no update on this, and that the new Forum contact at ScotRail is Michelle MacRae. Action updated to **CTF(2015)M004/A006** – *ScotRail to confirm date for ScotRail / HITRANS rail forum.*

3.4 **CTF(2015)M004/A013** – Chamber to get update from HITRANS on Branchliner project. **COMPLETE**

Frank Roach delivered a brief update on this. HITRANS recently held a conference on this project, and they are hopeful of seeing movement on the project soon. He noted that the owners of the forestry now see the value in forming a cooperative venture.

3.5 **CTF(2016)M001/A001** – Iain Moncrieff to clarify situation with speed limit in Reay. **COMPLETE**

An update was received from Iain Moncrieff on this. There are a number of outstanding actions, but assuming there are no objections the process is expected to take 8-12 weeks to complete.

3.6 **CTF(2016)M001/A002** – David Swanson to circulate update from BEAR Scotland on A9 Badbea resurfacing. **COMPLETE**

This was circulated to members.

3.7 **CTF(2016)M001/A003** – Chamber to raise issue of complaints not being answered with BEAR Scotland. **COMPLETE**

Marco noted that he would discuss this with BEAR.

CTF(2016)M002/A002 – Marco Bardelli to take up issue of complaints not being answered with BEAR Scotland.

3.8 **CTF(2016)M001/A004** – Chamber to contact Thurso Community Council regarding possibility of replacement of mural at Thurso rail station. **COMPLETE**

Jean Lipa noted that Thurso Community Council have arranged and paid for a joiner to deal with this.

3.9 **CTF(2016)M001/A005** – Trudy Morris to discuss station help points at Georgemas with passenger who raised issue. **COMPLETE**

Trudy noted that she had discussed this with the passenger in question.

Jean Lipa noted an issue she had recently with a train not arriving in Thurso and a replacement bus not being provided in time – it was agreed that the Chamber would follow this up with ScotRail.

CTF(2016)M002/A003 – Chamber to follow up with ScotRail on issue raised by Jean Lipa

3.10 **CTF(2016)M001/A006** – Iain Wilson to clarify situation with smartcard provision and station barriers on Far North Line. **COMPLETE**

An update was received from Michelle MacRae as follows:

- All season tickets are live on SMART on the Far North Line
- Club 50 is available and early work is underway towards making the Highland Railcard available on Smartcard
- No date available yet for go-live of other ticket types (e.g. Super Off peak)
- There are currently no plans to install ticket barriers at any stations on this line.

- 3.11 **CTF(2016)M001/A007** – *Iain Wilson to look at possibility of custom livery promoting Far North Line on refurbished 158s. COMPLETE*

An update was received from Michelle MacRae – the brand is owned by Transport Scotland and ScotRail are in early stage discussions with them about the possibility of specific branding on different types of route.

It was agreed that the Chamber would follow up with Transport Scotland on this.

CTF(2016)M002/A004 – *Chamber to follow up with Transport Scotland on custom livery to promote Far North Line*

- 3.12 **CTF(2016)M001/A008** – *Chamber to circulate North Rail Line Action Group passenger survey once available. COMPLETE*

Copies of the survey results and report were made available to attendees.

- 3.13 **CTF(2016)M001/A009** – *Chamber to write to Direct Rail Services regarding commercial development of Georgemas Junction railhead. COMPLETE*

A letter was written to Debbie Francis, Managing Director of Direct Rail Services, but no response was received. It was agreed that the Chamber would follow this up with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

CTF(2016)M002/A005 – *Chamber to follow up on letter to Direct Rail Services with Nuclear Decommissioning Authority*

- 3.14 **CTF(2016)M001/A010** – *Chamber to write to constituency candidates for Scottish Parliament regarding importance of Berriedale works. COMPLETE*

Letters were written to Fergus Ewing MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity, and to Humza Yousaf MSP, Minister for Transport and the Islands.

Gail Ross MSP noted that she intended to invite Mr Yousaf to visit the area, and that this could either be timed to coincide with the next meeting of the Forum or that a special meeting could be convened.

CTF(2016)M002/A006 – *Gail Ross MSP to invite Humza Yousaf MSP to meet with the Caithness Transport Forum*

- 3.15 **CTF(2016)M001/A011** – *Iain Moncrieff to circulate information on priority one gritting routes in Caithness. COMPLETE*

David Swanson noted that Iain had provided him with this information and that he would circulate it following the meeting.

- 3.16 **CTF(2016)M001/A012** – *Iain Moncrieff & Gillian Coghill to review winter maintenance route priorities once new bus routes confirmed. ONGOING*

It was confirmed that the new bus routes are not due to be confirmed until September 2016 and that there has been no movement on this as yet.

- 3.17 **CTF(2016)M001/A013** – *Iain Moncrieff to invite Ian MacGillivray to present on B876 at next meeting of the Forum. COMPLETE*

Ian MacGillivray was not able to attend, but Colin Howell was in attendance to discuss this action – it was agreed that Colin would update on this under the appropriate agenda item.

- 3.18 **CTF(2016)M001/A014** – *Chamber to forward Venture North details to James Linklater for promotion of new video. COMPLETE*

It was confirmed that this had been done and that Venture North had recently launched the second in the series, a link to which would be sent to James for action.

CTF(2016)M002/A007 – *Chamber to send link to second in Venture North “Discovery” series of films to James Linklater*

- 3.19 **CTF(2016)M001/A015** – *James Linklater to follow up with Kris Bevan on analysis of freight from Scrabster to Orkney. COMPLETE*

Trudy noted that she and Anna MacConnell had met with Kris to discuss issues surrounding freight, and that they would put Kris in touch with the appropriate contacts at Direct Rail Services and would also speak to James Stockan, Chair of HITRANS, on this.

Frank Roach noted that, in the next 2-3 months, HITRANS would be looking at the feasibility of an overnight passenger and freight service on the Far North Line. Trudy asked Frank to liaise with David Swanson and Kris Bevan as this progressed.

David Flear noted that the NDA would not have an objection to other freight operators, should they take an interest in providing such a service.

- 3.20 **CTF(2016)M001/A016** – *Jayne Westbrook to come back to Chamber regarding opportunities for Wick John O’Groats Airport involvement in SPARA 2020. COMPLETE*

An update was received from Jayne on this – aspects of the project have already been defined in the project application, but there may be possibility for the airport to be involved as a case study for the economic impact studies and Jayne will keep members updated on this aspect.

Jayne recommended that members subscribe to the SPARA 2020 newsletter and refer to the website to keep updated on progress.

It was agreed that David Swanson would circulate information on this to the members.

CTF(2016)M002/A008 – *David Swanson to circulate information on SPARA 2020 project*

- 3.21 **CTF(2016)M001/A017** – *Trudy Morris to follow up with Eann Sinclair on possible refresh of “A Transport Vision for Caithness”. COMPLETE*

Trudy and Eann noted that they had discussed this. Eann updated the Forum that he had been in discussions with HITRANS and HIE regarding a strategy for Wick John O’Groats Airport, and that they had indicated they would be amenable to funding this. He noted that he had begun work on a project scope for this but that this needed to be finalised.

Trudy and Eann felt that it may be possible to progress with a refresh of “A Transport Vision for Caithness” following on from this work.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Trudy Morris noted that she was unaware of any matters arising – no matters were raised.

5. HITRANS

5.1 Naomi Bremner delivered a presentation on HITRANS’ current refresh of their Regional Transport Strategy (RTS). Of note:

- The existing RTS came out in 2008 – HITRANS are linking in with e.g. Community Planning Partnerships and speaking to a range of stakeholders to draw out key issues
- The RTS refresh takes place in the context of the recently refreshed National Transport Strategy, published in January 2016, and the Transport (Scotland) Act.
- The National Transport Strategy lays out three key strategic outcomes, which will inform the RTS:
 - Improved journey times and connections
 - Reduced emissions
 - Improved quality, accessibility and affordability
- Six main issues were identified for the RTS:
 - Economy
 - Connecting communities
 - Lifeline transport
 - Network reliance and reliability
 - Roles, relationships and responsibilities
 - Carbon reduction
- The High Level Objectives were identified as follows:
 - To support sustainable economic growth and widen participation in the labour market
 - To increase independence and participation in social, leisure and cultural activities, and access to employment and healthcare
- Next steps
 - Consultation on Main Issues Report to end of June
 - Feedback used to align needs assessment
 - Review project / policies and ideas and plans for future years
 - Evaluate, develop and appraise the above
 - Prepare draft RTS for consultation

5.2 Trudy Morris asked for any questions from the room – none were asked. It was noted that the Chamber would be putting together a response on behalf of the Forum, and Trudy asked members to feed in to this.

5.3 It was agreed that HITRANS would attend the next meeting of the Forum, as this would coincide with the publication of the draft Regional Transport Strategy for consultation.

6. Transport Updates

6.1 The ScotRail Alliance

- 6.1.1 No attendee was present and no update was provided. David Swanson circulated to members the following related documents:
- Replacement bus service timetable for the Far North Line during current strike action
 - North Rail Line Action Group rail user survey results
 - North Rail Line Action Group report on rail user survey
- 6.1.2 Mike Lunan noted that the Friends of the Far North Line had held their AGM recently and that he had raised the issue of poor performance on the line with ScotRail. He felt that the required solution was the installation of a passing loop at Lenran, and urged the attendees to lobby the appropriate political representatives on this issue.
- 6.1.3 Trudy noted that the Forum would take this issue up with Humza Yousaf MSP.
- 6.1.4 Frank Roach noted that, with regards to the Forum's letters to Fergus Ewing and Humza Yousaf, the Network Rail Scotland Route Study included three interventions on the Far North Line, including the Georgemas Chord.
- 6.1.5 Billy Manson asked whether a station at Halkirk was under consideration – Frank noted that it was not. There was some discussion of this, and it was noted that, given the focus on reducing journey times on the line, addition of another station would not further this.
- 6.1.6 Roger Saxon noted that, with regards to punctuality targets, passengers would more likely rather wait for a delayed train than be bypassed entirely and have to rely on replacement buses.
- 6.1.7 There was some further discussion of the issue raised by Jean Lipa under point 3.9
- 6.1.8 Donnie Mackay asked for clarification on the Georgemas Chord, and whether this meant Georgemas station would be bypassed entirely – Frank clarified that it meant the station would only be visited once in each journey.

6.2 Direct Rail Services

- 6.2.1 No representative was present and no update provided.

6.3 Berriedale Braes

- 6.3.1 Trudy Morris noted that the Forum had written a letter to James Stockan regarding his comments on Berriedale, and that this would be circulated following the meeting.

CTF(2016)M002/A009 – *David Swanson to circulate letter to James Stockan regarding Berriedale comments*

- 6.3.2 Trudy appealed to Gail Ross MSP to continue to push the issue of Berriedale, particularly with regards to the length of time taken to complete the Public Local Inquiry. Gail assured Trudy it is at the top of her agenda and that she would seek clarification on the PLI process.

6.4 Highland Council

6.4.1 Colin Howell delivered an update on behalf of the Highland Council. Of note:

- Colin explained that his role is with Development & Infrastructure, whereas Iain Moncrieff's is with Community Services
- In 2010, the capital programme was approved and included allocation for generic line funding on e.g. major road improvements, flood prevention, etc.
- Two routes are currently being looked at under the major road improvements line, including the A836 Thurso-Tongue
- The minor roads budget is around £1m per year. Of that, the following has been allocated to works at Killimster:
 - 2015/16 - £10,000
 - 2016/17 - £165,000
 - 2017/18 - £350,000
- Ian MacGillivray has been tasked to deliver the programme of improvements at Killimster, including earthworks and surfacing.
- In order to deliver as much as possible, the aim is to draw down the full allocation at once and deliver all works as part of a single project, commencing in Spring next year.
- The aim is to have all research and surveys done and the tender for works out by October of this year.
- If, following completion of detailed design work, it is felt that the project requires additional funding, there is potential to request this.

6.4.2 David Flear enquired whether the Wick Harbour service bridge was included in the capital programme. Colin noted that it is in the major bridges line for future years.

6.4.3 It was agreed that Colin Howell would provide information on the capital programme and that this would be circulated to the Forum.

CTF(2016)M002/A011 – Colin Howell to provide information on Highland Council capital programme for circulation to the Forum.

6.4.4 David Flear raised the issue of widening of the Glengolly-Halkirk road, noting several recent incidents and increased industrial use. Willie Mackay noted that this was moving up the agenda.

6.4.5 Trudy Morris asked all members to feed back with comments on the capital programme within a week of it being circulated

6.5 BEAR Scotland

6.5.1 Marco Bardelli provided an update on behalf of BEAR Scotland. Of note:

- Six maintenance projects are scheduled for the A9/A99 this Autumn:
 - Ousdale South
 - Spittal-Georgemas
 - Georgemas-Hilliclay
 - Borrowstone
 - Occumster
 - Latheron Junction

- There are a number of other works, including the drainage strategy which provides a ranked list of flooding incidents with the aim of driving forward reactive repairs.
- 6.5.2 Marco noted that he would take back the issues previously discussed with lighting and the action from the last meeting regarding complaints.
- 6.5.3 Donnie Mackay raised issues with the traffic lights on the A9 in Thurso, specifically with regards to timing issues – Marco agreed to take this back to BEAR.

CTF(2016)M001/A011 – *Marco Bardelli to feed back to BEAR on issues with traffic lights on A9 in Thurso*

6.6 Stagecoach

- 6.6.1 Steve Walker delivered an update on behalf of Stagecoach. Of note:
- They are awaiting the results of the Highland Council's tender for transport services
 - A school holiday promotion is being run – 2 kids go free with a dayrider or Megarider ticket
 - The downturn in oil and gas is impacting on passenger numbers across the region – as a result, Stagecoach are monitoring costs
- 6.6.2 Donnie Mackay raised the issue of bus repairs and the age of the fleet, noting a recent incident where a wheel came off a Stagecoach bus. He felt that the fleet in the area is outdated.
- 6.6.3 Steve noted that the age of the fleet is fairly new – of the 26 buses in Caithness, 8 were brand new 4 years ago and a lot of the fleet is less than 6 years old. He noted that skills shortages are an issue.
- 6.6.4 Trudy Morris enquired as to how the wheel came off the bus. Steve explained that this is not known at this time – it was changed a few weeks prior and did around 3,500 kilometres without incident. The driver did not report hitting anything large. Steve noted that the quality of the roads and corrosion due to wet, cold weather can have impacts.
- 6.6.5 Gail Ross MSP queried whether the buses undergo regular rounds of inspection – Steve noted that they are serviced every 21 days.
- 6.6.6 With regards to Steve's comments on skills shortages, David Flear noted that engineering skills are critical and enquired whether Stagecoach have looked at apprenticeships or working with North Highland College to address these.
- 6.6.7 Steve noted that Stagecoach do have an apprenticeship scheme and that they currently have one apprentice in Caithness. The issue they have is that they invest in training people who then leave for other jobs. He further noted that Stagecoach have a similar issue in Orkney, and that it is hard to get people to relocate to the area.
- 6.6.8 Trudy queried whether Stagecoach have specific issues within the engineering department. Steve noted that this is not the case and that they have an engineering manager who has recently joined the company. He further noted that they also have difficulty recruiting drivers.
- 6.6.9 Trudy noted that this would be taken on board with regards to recent work on talent attraction.
- 6.6.10 David Flear noted the Scottish Government's Transition Training Fund – Steve noted that the issue is not necessarily money but in getting people to stay in the area.

6.7 Scrabster Harbour

- 6.7.1 Sandy Mackie provided an update on Scrabster Harbour (see Appendix A).
- 6.7.2 In addition to the written update, Sandy noted that they are keen to showcase the port and the area and have been working on some time-lapse video of activity at the Harbour.
- 6.7.3 Mike Lunan queried whether the Harbour has a strategy for attracting cruise traffic. Sandy noted that they go to the major trade shows, and are members of Cruise Scotland. They also try to work with onshore tourist operators.
- 6.7.4 Donnie Mackay asked Sandy for an update on progress at Scrabster Business Park. Sandy noted that this is ongoing but is a slow process. Improved access and drainage have now been secured. Of the two major targets they had, oil and gas has been realised but marine renewables has been slower. He felt that the potential with renewables was in operations and maintenance. Sandy noted that support was needed from others to take this forward.

6.8 Wick Harbour Authority

- 6.8.1 No attendee was present and no update was provided.
- 6.8.2 Trudy Morris noted that the Final Investment Decision had recently been made on the Beatrice Offshore Windfarm and that Wick Harbour will be busy with this.

6.9 Serco NorthLink Ferries

- 6.9.1 James Linklater delivered an update on behalf of Serco NorthLink Ferries. Of note:
- Passenger numbers are up 10% in May, with non-commercial vehicles up 8.5%
 - Year-to-date, passenger numbers are up 3%, non-commercial vehicles up 7%
 - *MV Isle of Lewis* covered the route while *MV Hamnavoe* was in dry dock, and this went well
 - NorthLink continue to offer support for community groups in Caithness
 - Peak timetable continues until August, at 3 sailings per day. There will also be several days with 3 sailings in September and October
 - They aim to have their site relaunched in the next 2-3 weeks
 - James urged attendees to let local businesses know about the free listings available on the NorthLink website
- 6.9.2 Kris Bevan delivered an additional update. Of note:
- Freight traffic for May is up 7%, year-to-date traffic is up 1.5%
 - They ran an extended timetable for the recent Battle of Jutland commemorations, and will do the same for the Orkney County Show – Kris was keen to hear if there are any other dates for which this would be of interest
 - Kris offered his thanks to Sandy Mackie and to Scrabster Harbour for their assistance with the *MV Isle of Lewis*

6.10 Wick John O’Groats Airport / HIAL

- 6.10.1 No attendee was present and no update was provided.
- 6.10.2 Trudy Morris noted recent issues with delays on Loganair flights and that Orkney appears to be having similar issues. It was agreed that the Chamber would write to Loganair regarding this.

CTF(2016)M002/A013 – *Chamber to write to Loganair regarding delays on flights from Wick*

- 6.10.3 Trudy noted that Eann had already updated the Forum with ongoing work on strategy and route development.

7. Press Communications

- 7.1 It was felt that there was a lot of positive news including positive developments at Scrabster Harbour, increasing passenger numbers on NorthLink Ferries, developments at Wick John O’Groats Airport and progress on the Killimster Moss

8. Any Other Business

- 8.1 Jean Lipa noted that the Association of Caithness Community Councils is up and running.
- 8.2 There was some discussion of car parking at Thurso Rail Station and of planning issues – Trudy noted that discussions are ongoing regarding this and the feeling is positive
- 8.3 Gillian Coghill raised an issue with the ramps at either side of the Hoy crossing. It was agreed that this would be taken up with Network Rail and the Highland Council.

CTF(2016)M002/A014 – *Chamber to take up issue with Hoy Crossing with Network Rail and Highland Council*

9. Date of the next meeting

- 9.1 It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 22nd September, following the Wick John O’Groats Airport Consultative Committee, and that this would likely take place in Wick Town Hall.
- 9.2 Gail Ross MSP noted her apologies in advance.

10. Actions ongoing from previous meetings

CTF(2015)M004/A006 – *ScotRail to confirm date for ScotRail / HITRANS rail forum*

CTF(2016)M001/A012 – *Iain Moncrieff & Gillian Coghill to review winter maintenance route priorities once new bus routes confirmed.*

11. Actions arising from this meeting

- CTF(2016)M002/A001** – Marco Bardelli to provide firm date for completion of Thurso lighting works
- CTF(2016)M002/A002** – Marco Bardelli to take up issue of complaints not being answered with BEAR Scotland.
- CTF(2016)M002/A003** – Chamber to follow up with ScotRail on issue raised by Jean Lipa
- CTF(2016)M002/A004** – Chamber to follow up with Transport Scotland on custom livery to promote Far North Line
- CTF(2016)M002/A005** – Chamber to follow up on letter to Direct Rail Services with Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
- CTF(2016)M002/A006** – Gail Ross MSP to invite Humza Yousaf MSP to meet with the Caithness Transport Forum
- CTF(2016)M002/A007** – Chamber to send link to second in Venture North “Discovery” series of films to James Linklater
- CTF(2016)M002/A008** – David Swanson to circulate information on SPARA 2020 project
- CTF(2016)M002/A009** – David Swanson to circulate letter to James Stockan regarding Berriedale comments
- CTF(2016)M002/A010** – Gail Ross MSP to seek clarification on length of PLI process for Berriedale
- CTF(2016)M002/A011** – Colin Howell to provide information on Highland Council capital programme for circulation to the Forum.
- CTF(2016)M001/A012** – Marco Bardelli to feed back to BEAR on issues with traffic lights on A9 in Thurso
- CTF(2016)M002/A013** – Chamber to write to Loganair regarding delays on flights from Wick
- CTF(2016)M002/A014** – Chamber to take up issue with Hoy Crossing with Network Rail and Highland Council

Appendix A – Scrabster Harbour update

1. TRAFFIC STATISTICS

In the year from April 2015 to March 2016, there were 2,210 vessel arrivals, an increase of 3% on the previous year.

Vessel tonnage, in the period, amounted to 8.279 million tonnes, this is also 3% higher than the previous year.

Overall financial year 2015-16 was a very successful trading year with the Trust generating record revenues for the second year in a row.



2. FERRY

Ferry passenger numbers for 2015-16 totalled 126,808, an increase of 3.5% on the previous period. The current ferry contract runs to April 2018. Now that the Clyde and Hebrides ferry contract has been decided, Scottish Government will turn their attention to the tender for the Northern Isles service. In preparation for the contract tender, Peter Brett Associates will be holding further stakeholder consultations over the coming months.

3. FISHING

A total of 290,651 boxes were landed at Scrabster in 2015-16, an increase of 1% on the previous year. The number of boxes consigned fell by 1% in the period, however, the number of boxes landed through the Scrabster market increased by 3.5%.

The Trust continues to progress an application to the new European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF) for a replacement new ice plant to serve the port. The tender for the works is scheduled to be advertised at the end of this month.



4. OIL AND GAS

Oil and Gas activity vessel tonnage in 2015-16 amounted to 525,090 tonnes, an increase of 65% on the previous year.

The increased activity has continued into the new financial year with the port supporting West of Shetland activity for BP, Total, JX Nippon and Premier Oil.

Locally, the port supported the latest Subsea 7 tow out from Wester for the Catcher oil field. The tow vessels mobilised and demobilised at Scrabster.

5. CRUISE

There have been two cruise calls so far this season, both vessels were able to berth alongside. The Fred Olsen vessel Boudicca berthed on 30th April. At 206 metres, it became the longest vessel to ever berth at Scrabster.

6. CARGO

The continued absence of timber exports and windfarm shipments is reflected in the cargo activity figures for 2015-16.

	Tonnes	Increase / Decrease on previous Year
ables	5,481	-40%
l Cargo	17,841	-65%
rgo	19,484	+32%
s	38,747	+13%



Since April the port has dealt with the importation of six transformers and ancillary equipment for the Spittal Sub-station and the JGC manufactured support modules destined for the Rampion Wind Farm off the south coast of England.

14th June 2016