

Dear Customer

Consultation on ABP Pilotage Charges for 2022

I am writing to share with you our proposals for 2022 pilotage charges. Our aim for next year is to keep increases to a minimum, while continuing to invest in the strategic projects which support the long-term future of the pilotage service.

In line with previous years, we have used September's Retail Price Index (RPI) inflation rate as the reference for pilotage charges. For September 2021, RPI was 4.9%, therefore we intend to keep the overall increase in Pilotage charges at 4.9%.

Pilotage charges have been the focus of close review as we look both at the financial viability of the service, and the complexity of the charges.

Our pilotage operations returned a loss in 2020 and with continued investment in new pilot boats and other support services needed, this is not sustainable. The proposed price increase will start to bring the finances back into line.

However during the course of 2022 we further intend to fully review the Port of Southampton Pilotage tariff, restructuring our charges to better reflect the costs of the service and making the structure of our charges easier for port users to understand.

Furthermore we propose to implement the following inclusions within the pilotage tariff for 2022: -

1. Compass Adjustor

Currently we do not charge vessels for this service. This operation requires the services of a qualified adjustor and will involve a ship swing through 360 degrees in open water. In general this is done in the Solent although for larger less manoeuvrable vessels at the Nab. The swing and subsequent certification will add approximately 45 minutes to the act of pilotage.

To bring us into line with other ports we are proposing a charge of £188 be made to cover the cost of this service.

2. Amendment to a PEC or Cancellation of PEC Exam

Currently we do not charge a PEC holder for making any changes to their certificate, yet there is management and administration time involved in this.

To bring us into line with other ports we are proposing to implement a charge of £120 for any amendment or addition to a PEC.

Cancellation of a PEC exam within 10 days of the booked date will result in lost management and administration time, therefore it is proposed to implement a cancellation charge of £300.

3. Access and Egress

Access and Egress is currently levied at £130 this does not cover the possible costs of running a launch through from Cowes or Gosport to cover SP. It is proposed to increase to the level of the minimum boarding fee of £234, this will simplify the tariff and ensure the cost of the service is covered.

4. Container Specialist Pilot Choice Retainer Supplement

The Container Specialist Pilot Choice Retainer Supplement of £131 has not been revised for some time. It is therefore proposed to increase the fee applicable to £170.05. This is based on an increase in line with RPI since the last increase (2012).

Our proposals for 2022 charges will be applicable from the 1st January 2022. If you have any comments on these proposals, please could you send them to us by **Friday, 31 December 2021**. Feedback should be sent to: hmsouthampton@abports.co.uk

Final details will be reflected in the new tariff which will be published on our website at the end of the year. We will email the new tariff to everyone who receives electronic invoices.

Yours sincerely



Steve Masters
Harbour Master