

November 2024

Port State Control Inspector Appointment Request (Capt. Sophie Platten)

**The Harbour Master requests the Minister appoint Captain Sophie Platten (Head of External Maritime Compliance, Ports of Jersey Ltd.) as an approved Port State Control Inspector.**

Background

Port State Control Inspectors (or Surveyors) are appointed by the Minister for Sustainable Economic Development under Article 154 (1) of the *Shipping (Jersey) Law 2002*. Their role is to inspect vessels on behalf of the Minister to ensure they comply with the various IMO conventions that have been extended to or adopted by Jersey and any associated local requirement.

Inspectors have the power to detain a ship in a port in Jersey or at sea in Jersey waters if it is 'dangerously unsafe', and may also be requested by the Minister to report on a maritime accident or damage, a vessel's compliance with the Shipping law, the condition of a vessel, and matters involving pollution from a vessel. The involvement of Jersey Inspectors also ensures that Jersey's maritime standards are given equal prominence and respect during joint international inspections.

Justification

PoJ request Capt. Platten is appointed as an Inspector given Capt. Stan Richard-dit-Leschery (an appointed Inspector) is due to retire from his full-time role with PoJ in February 2024. Capt. Platten's appointment as Inspector will ensure that three inspectors remain available in addition to the Chief Marine Surveyor for Jersey.

Capt. Platten, a Master Mariner with command experience, has recently been appointed as Head of External Maritime Compliance at Ports of Jersey. She has been sworn in as an Acting Harbour Master.

Supplementary requests

If the Minister approves this appointment, PoJ request the following:

1. A signed MD which can be used as evidence of appointment in case challenged when conducting an inspection.
2. The following wording is placed on the back of the PoJ issued Inspector identity card: "*The holder of this card is appointed by the Minister for SED to exercise all powers of an inspector under articles 154 and 157 of the Shipping (Jersey) Law 2002*".
3. Capt. Richard-dit-Leschery should remain available to act as an Inspector after his retirement in Feb 2025, until Capt. Platten has completed additional Port State Control training and Pierre Chays (Assistant Registrar) has completed his Marine Accident Investigation qualifications during 2025.

**Officers recommend the Minister approves all requests.**