

JCRA Media Release

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JCRA Starts Enquiry into Shipping and Port Services

Following a request by the Economic Development Minister, the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA) has decided to undertake a major study of competition and regulatory issues in the shipping and port services sector. The study will cover the following services in particular:

- freight forwarding and haulage;
- shipping services (including passenger, car ferry and freight services);
- port infrastructure (land, berths, cranes, warehouses, etc);
- stevedoring services (the loading and unloading of cargo);
- pilotage, towage and mooring.

The JCRA has been asked to enquire into, report and make recommendations on:

- the current structure of, and level of competition in, markets for the provision of shipping and port services in Jersey;
- the current structure and level of fees and charges in these sectors;
- measures that could be taken under the Competition (Jersey) Law to increase the level of competition and efficiencies in these sectors; and
- alternative measures that could be taken to improve efficiencies in sectors that are naturally monopolistic and not amenable to action under the Competition (Jersey) Law, including measures to regulate and monitor prices.

Bill Brown, Executive Director of the JCRA said:

“Shipping and port services are effectively a lifeline for Jersey consumers and local businesses. These services are controlled by a very limited number of operators (and in certain cases a monopoly). It is important to look at whether the interests of consumers and local businesses are adequately protected as things stand, or whether there is scope for any improvements to be made. We are therefore pleased to be able to undertake this study”.

ENDS

Note to Editors

1. Under Article 6(4) of the Competition Regulatory Authority (Jersey) Law the JCRA may, on request by the Minister, provide the Minister with reports, advice, assistance and information in relation to ‘any matter concerning competition, monopolies, utilities or any matter connected with the provision of goods or services to which the Authority’s functions relate’.
2. All enquiries to Bill Brown, Executive Director, on 01534 514990.