



JCRA launches consultation on Shipping and Port Services

The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA) is inviting views from all interested parties on competition issues surrounding shipping and ports services, an area of crucial importance to the Jersey economy and its citizens.

The consultation is intended to help inform the advice on shipping and port services which the Economic Development Minister has sought from the JCRA. The advice is due to be delivered by the end of this year.

Amongst the matters canvassed by the JCRA in its Issues Paper are the following:

1. Whether there is scope for competition on ferry routes between Jersey and the UK (the 'northern route') and between Jersey and France (the 'southern route').
2. Whether the levels of ferry fares are considered to be too high and, if so, by reference to what benchmarks?
3. If there is no scope for competition on either the northern or southern routes, whether services should be subject to regulation and, if so, how?
4. Whether there is scope for stimulating customer demand on these (or other) routes and, if so, in what ways?
5. How stevedoring services should be provided when the current agreement between Jersey Harbours and George Troy & Sons Limited (the current stevedore) expires in October 2007.

Views on these and most other issues in the Issues Paper are invited by 17 November 2006. However, because of tight decision-making timeframes in relation to three particular issues, submissions on them have been requested by 31 October 2006.

Bill Brown, Executive Director of the JCRA, said:

'Shipping and port services are effectively a lifeline for the Jersey economy and its citizens. This is a valuable opportunity for Islanders, local businesses, consumers and all other interested parties to have a say in how these services should be provided in the future. We are therefore hoping for as much constructive feedback to this consultation as possible to help us frame our advice to the Minister.'

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