



Department for Transport

Lord Watson of Invergowrie
Chair
Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PQ

From the Parliamentary
Under-Secretary of State
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12 October 2026

Dear Lord Watson,

Further to my letter dated 10 November 2025 including responses to the Committee's concerns about my Department's and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA) approach to maritime fees. I wanted to take this opportunity to provide the Committee with an update.

In that letter I noted the MCA's intention to update the fees by the end of 2026. I regret to say that progress has taken longer than anticipated, due to the complexity of the proposed approach and the time required to work through the outstanding issues and agree a way forward with other government departments. As discussions are still ongoing, the MCA will be unable to complete the fee update by the end of 2026. Once agreement is reached, the MCA will proceed with the public consultation followed with the associated legislative process which is expected to take up to 12 months to complete.

I appreciate that this may be disappointing, I want to reassure the Committee that we take the updating of maritime fees seriously and are taking necessary steps to ensure these Regulations are completed at the earliest opportunity.

Unless you request otherwise, I will provide a further update to the Committee at the end of 2026, when we expect to be in a position to advise on the outcome of these discussions and progress with the public consultation and legislative process.

Yours sincerely,

KEIR MATHER MP

MINISTER FOR AVIATION, MARITIME AND LOGISTICS