



FORTH PORTS LIMITED

Forth Ports introduces permanent rail service between Grangemouth and Tilbury

6 August 2019

Forth Ports today announces, in partnership with Direct Rail Services (DRS) and Eddie Stobart, that the rail service which provides a regular weekend link between the Port of Tilbury and the Port of Grangemouth, Scotland's largest port, is to be made permanent.

Following a successful trial, the new regular two-way rail link will serve Forth Ports' customers in the South of England and Central Scotland from Friday (9th August).

The service which uses DRS's state-of-the-art locomotives and wagon fleet has the capacity to travel with 36 containers and will be managed by Eddie Stobart, working closely with both Forth Ports and DRS. The containers travelling from Tilbury will carry cargo including retail goods, food and drink while the return journey will support Scotland's export market with the movement of spirits, chemicals and fresh food.

The two-way rail service will provide Forth Ports' customers with a cost effective and sustainable means of moving goods between ports while benefiting from reduced carbon emissions without using the already-congested UK road network.

The first train will leave Tilbury on Friday evening, via Dagenham, travelling overnight to arrive at Grangemouth on Saturday morning.

Rob Mason, Senior Commercial Manager at Forth Ports, said: *"The response from customers to our two-way rail service between the Ports of Tilbury and Grangemouth has been so encouraging that it means we can now operate the service regularly every weekend starting this Friday."*

"Business at our busy container terminals is growing rapidly and it has become hugely important that we were able to connect these two ports by rail. This new service highlights our commitment to providing sustainable and cost-effective logistics solutions for our customers, helping them to grow and increasing their competitiveness in the supply chain."

"We look forward to partnering with Eddie Stobart and DRS on what is the first regular rail service linking our ports in Tilbury and Grangemouth and opening up a number of import and export opportunities for our business and customers."

John Clark, Sector Director at Eddie Stobart, said: *“Following on from a successful trial in June, the service will start this week allowing the South of England to be connected by rail into Grangemouth at the weekend when road driving resource is at a premium.*

“Working in partnership with Forth Ports and Direct Rail Services we are extremely confident that this service will prove to be a real benefit for logistics companies at both ends of the country.”

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Notes to editors:

1. Forth Ports Ltd owns and operates Tilbury, alongside seven other commercial ports on the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Tay: Grangemouth, Dundee, Leith, Rosyth, Methil, Burntisland and Kirkcaldy.

2. The Port of Grangemouth operates Scotland's largest container port and handles in excess of 155,000 containers per annum. Regular container ship services are available from Grangemouth with frequent daily sailings to Rotterdam, Antwerp, Felixstowe and Hamburg. Most of the major lines utilise these feeder services to link with mother container vessels plying between the world's major ports. Short sea box traffic is also carried on the weekly services for onward transportation to destinations in Europe and Scandinavia.

An important base cargo for the container services is the carrying of Scotch whisky, but significant other business includes chemicals in bulk containers, electronic goods, machinery and manufactured goods.

3. The Port of Tilbury is the number one UK port for forestry products, construction materials, paper, grain and recyclables. The port has a strong market presence in bulk commodities, ro-ro, cars and cruise vessels.

The port's London Container Terminal handles a mix of short and deep sea services (non-EU and EU), is the UK's number four port for containers and has the greatest reefer (refrigerated container) point connectivity in Europe.

Tilbury's strategic location makes it a natural point for distribution, with nearly 20 million people living within 75 miles. Serving the UK's market, the port offers customers excellent transport links to and from the UK's capital and across the South East where over 50% of the population live and work.

The Port is a diverse multi-modal hub, covering around 1,100 areas and is well positioned to access the M25 orbital motorway and the rest of the UK's national motorway network. In addition, there are direct rail connections within the port and dedicated barge facilities.

4. The Tilbury2 Development Consent Order received ministerial consent from the Secretary of State for Transport in March 2019.

5. Tilbury2 will act as a satellite of the main port. It will comprise a:

- roll on/roll off ferry terminal for importing and exporting containers and trailers
- facility for importing, processing, manufacturing and distributing construction materials
- storage area for a variety of goods, including exported and imported cars

- new national strategic rail and road connection into the site.
- For more information about Tilbury2, go to www.tilbury2.co.uk

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