(UK) Shipping Minister meets the Lighthouse Service

Trinity House welcomed The Rt Hon John Hayes to its Harwich (England, East Coast) depot on 23 February 2017, visiting in his capacity as the Minister of State for Transport, the Shipping Minister.

This visit served to familiarise the Minister with the functions and operations of Trinity House—specifically in its role as a General Lighthouse Authority—highlighting risk in UK waters and the Service’s ability to respond to that risk. He was able to take a close look at operational delivery and technological innovation.

With presentations by Trinity House executives and staff, Hayes’ visit also included the modern Planning Centre from which Trinity House operates and monitors its aids to marine navigation.

Of the ministerial visit Executive Chairman of Trinity House, Captain Ian McNaught commented: ‘We are grateful to the Minister for this opportunity to demonstrate our role in maritime UK. As we continue to improve the way we operate, to identify efficiencies and meet our requirements as an aid to navigation provider, it is important to reiterate our position as a vital part of our island’s maritime infrastructure, and that is what we have done today.’

About Trinity House

Trinity House is a charity dedicated to safeguarding shipping and seafarers, providing education, support and welfare to the seafaring community with a statutory duty as a General Lighthouse Authority to deliver a reliable, efficient and cost-effective aids to navigation service for the benefit and safety of all mariners.

The Corporation of Trinity House was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1514 to regulate pilotage on the River Thames and provide for aged mariners.

With a mandate that has expanded considerably since then, Trinity House is today the UK’s largest-endowed maritime charity, the General Lighthouse Authority (GLA) for England, Wales, the Channel Islands and Gibraltar and a fraternity of men and women selected from across the nation’s maritime sector.

Long-standing familiarity with the channels, hazards, currents and markings of its coastline qualifies Trinity House to inspect and audit almost 11,000 local aids to navigation, license Deep Sea Pilots and provide Elder Brethren as Nautical Assessors to the Admiralty Court.
Per annum the charity donates around £4m to the charities it supports. These include the provision of cadet training schemes, welfare provision for retired mariners and educational programmes teaching safety at sea skills.

Picture caption
*The Rt Hon John Hayes (seated, left) in discussion with  (seated, right) Trinity House Executive Chairman Captain Ian McNaught and Directors (left) Captain Roger Barker  and Commodore Rob Dorey.*