

## NOTICE TO MARINERS 28 of 2017

### RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT SAFETY ACT 2003 **DRINK / DRUGS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

As we approach Christmas the Metropolitan Police Service will be engaged in high profile activity to publicise the dangers of driving whilst under the influence of drink or drugs – more commonly known as the ‘Christmas Drink – Drive’ campaign.

As in previous years, the Marine Police Unit in partnership with the PLA will be supporting this campaign by raising awareness among River Thames commercial passenger and freight vessel operators, and will be exercising their powers under the Rail and Transport Safety Act 2003. The campaign will run from 1st December 2017 until 1st January 2018.

The safety of vessels, passengers and crew is of paramount importance. Should any persons have concerns that a member of staff is working on a commercial vessel whilst unfit through drink or drugs you are urged to contact the Metropolitan Police immediately. This can be done as confidential and anonymous information via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, or via secure online form through [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org). In urgent cases please call 999. Alternatively the Port of London Authority can be contacted at London VTS on 0208 855 0315 for the upper district and 01474 562 215 for the lower district.

Under the above Act, whether you are the Master or member of the Crew of a commercial vessel, you can be required to take a breath test under certain circumstances. You would be subject to arrest if you are over the limit for alcohol, refuse a breath test or are found to be unfit through consumption of drink or drugs. The penalties involved are similar to those for road offences – **Fines or Imprisonment**. Additionally upon conviction the Maritime and Coastguard Agency may revoke your Boatmaster’s Licence.

Under PLA byelaws the master of a vessel (including recreational vessels) shall not navigate when unfit by reason of drink or drugs e.g. having 25 micrograms of alcohol or more in 100 millilitres of breath. Or, if the harbourmaster has reasonable cause to suspect that a master’s fitness to navigate is impaired by having drink or drugs in his body, he may issue a direction to the Master, which if not complied with is also an offence.

**1 December 2017**

Port of London Authority  
London River House, Royal Pier Road,  
Gravesend, Kent DA12 2BG

**BOB BAKER**  
CHIEF HARBOUR MASTER



EXPIRY DATE: 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018  
TO RECEIVE FUTURE NOTICES TO MARINERS BY **E-MAIL**,  
PLEASE REGISTER VIA OUR WEBSITE [www.pla.co.uk](http://www.pla.co.uk)  
**Telephone calls, VHF radio traffic, CCTV and radar traffic images may  
be recorded in the VTS Centres at Gravesend and Woolwich**

