

## NOTICE TO MARINERS 22 of 2016

### CHRISTMAS 2016 ANTI-DRINK AND DRUG DRIVING CAMPAIGN

As we approach Christmas, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) will hold an anti-drink and drug/driving campaign in support of the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) Christmas Drink and Drug Driving Enforcement Campaign and will be engaged in high profile activity to publicise the dangers of driving whilst under the influence of drink or drugs.

As in previous years, the Marine Policing Unit (MPU) 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 begin on Thursday 1st December 2016 and end on Sunday 1st January 2017.

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 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 always 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; this may include a field impairment test if drugs are suspected. 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 through drink or drugs e.g. having 35 micrograms or more of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. Additionally, 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.

**21st November  
2016**

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 2017  
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**

