

**From:** Martin Reeve (Normandy Safaris / Breaks) [mailto:Martin.Reeve@lineone.net]

**Sent:** 04 December 2004 14:24

**To:** info

**Subject:** P&O Ferries to withdraw from the Portsmouth

The recent decision by P&O Ferries to withdraw from the Portsmouth - Le Havre, Caen and Cherbourg routes, now leaves all ferry travel from central southern England to France to one operator (Brittany Ferries). It is effectively a Monopoly ensuring zero competition. There is no shortage of passengers wishing to travel to France, however the contempt shown to clients and poor management by P&O has, over the past few years, guaranteed a steady reduction of those travelling.

I believe that, in the name of fair competition, there should be a choice given to the thousands who would cross this section of the channel. This means that P&O should either employ managers who are capable of thinking, or should pass one of their existing routes - namely the Portsmouth / Le Havre route - to a third operator, and not to Brittany Ferries.

There is no doubt that Brittany Ferries operates very fine and comfortable ships and that the food onboard is of excellent quality - all things which P&O were too dumb to notice - however, trying to do business with Brittany Ferries is almost impossible. They want everything themselves. I wrote to them in 2000 in connection with my business asking for business concessions. There was no reply. I wrote to the Brittany Ferries Head Office in Roscoff back in October this year and there has again been no reply. Not even an acknowledgement. And I now don't expect one. It does not bode well for UK citizens who wish to cross the channel.

I am not sure if you are the Regulator looking at the P&O / Brittany Ferries situation. If not would you please pass this message on to him or if possible give me his contact address.

Kind regards,

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