

From: Paul Bilbrough [p.bilbrough@btinternet.com]
Sent: 27 December 2004 09:59
To: Brittany P&O
Subject: P&O & Brittany Ferries (An Outsiders Point of View)

Hi

This email is a little late and is considered to be an outsider's point of view, not being connected with either Brittany Ferries or P&O. I doubt if this email can be used but I would hope it is at least read by the members of the enquiry board.

I belong to the Ferry Enthusiasts community which if I am totally honest are very interested in this situation probably more so than the general public and we cannot understand this review taking place, numerous comments and thoughts have been expressed in relation to the demise of P&O at Portsmouth. (I have posted numerous links at the bottom of this email to the enthusiast's forums, if you have ten minutes they will be worth reading.)

To all of us it appears if the Office of Fair Trading and the Competition Commission are treating this proposal as a merger. To everybody else we believe nothing of the sort. For example:

Currently	Future with your enquiry saying "No"	Future with your enquiry saying "Yes"
P&O Portsmouth to Cherbourg	P&O Portsmouth to Bilbao	P&O Portsmouth to Bilbao
P&O Portsmouth to Le Havre	BF Portsmouth to Caen	BF Portsmouth to Caen
P&O Portsmouth to Bilbao	BF Portsmouth to Cherbourg	BF Portsmouth to Cherbourg
BF Portsmouth to Caen	BF Portsmouth to St Malo	BF Portsmouth to St Malo
BF Portsmouth to Cherbourg	BF Portsmouth to Le Havre**	BF Portsmouth to Le Havre
BF Portsmouth to St Malo		
	** The Le Havre route being a possibility should BF decided to re-open the route.	

I appreciate that this point of view is made in the simplest of terms, but at the end of the day that is what we the general public see. Therefore basically regardless of the outcome we believe that P&O will close the Le Havre route – the only decision here is whether the jobs of the crews and port staff are saved or whether they lose their jobs if the enquiry rules against the transfer.

If you would like to spend a few minutes reading the following websites, you will find numerous comments and thoughts on the current situation. These websites are run by enthusiasts for enthusiasts and have no connection with either of the two companies. Also for clarity some members of the forums are from France and Germany.

<http://users.boardnation.com/~will/index.php?board=13>
<http://www.bfeforums.co.uk/forum/showthread.php?t=562&page=1>
<http://www.bfeforums.co.uk/forum/showthread.php?t=1115&page=1>

Once again I would like to thank you for reading this email and I hope it has made some sense and shed a little light on what we the "very interested" general public think about the current situation.

Yours Sincerely

Paul