



4th May 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

Closure of Chatham Docks

We have recently become aware of the intention by Peel Ports to commence the process of serving notice to all tenants of Chatham Docks and more importantly to us, Uplands Engineering, in order to develop the land.

CEMEX is a global building materials supplier to the construction industry, a vital part of the UK and global economy.

Due to tightening restrictions and ever depleting shore-based reserves, we are increasingly reliant on our Marine reserves which are brought ashore by our fleet of Aggregate Dredgers to serve this industry and meet demand.

Due to the nature of our business it is critical that we have an adequate support network of subcontractors that are strategically placed to offer 24/7 assistance to our vessels, ensuring that they are kept in a safe, seaworthy, and operational condition.

Around 50% of our business is conducted delivering marine aggregate to various berths along the Thames corridor and as such Uplands Engineering, with their diverse range of skills and contacts, are our main sub-contractor in this area.

Whilst not unexpected, closure of Chatham Docks and the removal of Uplands Engineering from this site has the potential to pose problems to us as a business should they not be able to secure an alternative site which is equally accessible to our vessels.

Similarly, it leaves Tilbury as the only 'lock-in' option for essential repairs which are reliant on vessels being alongside non-tidal berths.

I would appreciate any assistance that you may be able to offer Uplands Engineering in continuing to provide the essential services to CEMEX UK Marine vessels.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Manfield", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ben Manfield

Marine Superintendent Engineer - United Kingdom

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