



The Government of Sark
HARBOURS, SHIPPING & PILOTAGE COMMITTEE
TOURISM COMMITTEE

COMMITTEES OF THE CHIEF PLEAS OF SARK
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Statement from the Harbours, Shipping & Pilotage and Tourism Committees

Both the Harbours, Shipping & Pilotage and Tourism Committees recognise that some tough decisions are having to be made regarding our lifeline shipping company. These decisions have not been taken lightly, but they are guided by the clear aim of ensuring the company remains resilient and capable of supporting Sark and its economy - not just in the immediate future, but for the long term as well.

Throughout the review process, all Conseillers involved highlighted the importance of ensuring that the revised timetable continues to meet Sark's essential medical, education, and tourism needs where possible. These priorities were at the forefront of discussions to make sure that, even with reduced sailings, the schedule remains workable for our community and visitors alike.

At the same time, Sark Shipping committed all along to take on board all feedback from residents and to be flexible, where possible, with additional crossings or further changes to the schedule.

The reduction in crossings, while understandably unpopular, is a measure intended to help safeguard the financial sustainability of the service and company, as each sailing requires a fixed number of passengers per crossing to be financially viable. The planned three-day mid-week break in return sailings will also provide essential time for critical maintenance to be carried out on the Venture, helping to maintain safety and reliability throughout the season.

We fully appreciate that these proposed changes are vastly different than previous winter timetables however, these are responsible and considered decisions made with Sark's long-term interests at heart - to protect the continuity of our lifeline service and ensure it remains dependable for generations to come.

There will also be an opportunity for islanders and stakeholders to provide their input on the timetable at the public Sark Shipping feedback meeting, which will take place

following the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) at 12:00 noon on Monday 13th October. An additional evening session will be arranged for those unable to attend on Monday 13th October. The date, time, and venue will be confirmed and published as soon as possible. All feedback received will be carefully considered and solutions sought wherever possible.

Harbours, Shipping & Pilotage and Tourism Committees