

30th July 2021

Rt. Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer

Rt. Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Secretary of State for Ministry of Housing Communities and
Local Government

Dear Rt. Hon Rishi Sunak MP and Rt. Hon Robert Jenrick MP,

Re: Solent Freeport - Security Letter

The Solent Freeport Consortium Limited Board is delighted that the Solent was selected as one of the 8 English Freeports in the Budget in March.

We believe that the Solent Freeport will provide the capacity to start, attract and grow businesses that build on the existing strengths of the region and support regional and national strategies, including around Net Zero, but also develop new markets. Freeports offer a unique opportunity to create hotbeds for innovation, and we are seeking to enhance the region's existing innovation ecosystem and potential through securing investment from high innovation businesses into the Solent.

We alongside all our custom site operators (Associated British Ports, Portsmouth International Port, Solent Gateway and DP World Southampton) would like to confirm our commitment to adhering to the OECD Code of Conduct for Clean Free Trade Zones and to upholding anti-money laundering protocols. This includes complying with the UK's Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds Regulations and registering with a Government approved supervisory authority to follow anti-money laundering regulations.

We understand that robust processes for managing security and illicit activity risks are vital to realising the ambition of the Solent Freeport and are committed to ensuring they are in place. We consider that any auditing of Customs Sites should be integrated as much as possible with existing regulations and controls already in place for ports and Authorised Temporary Storage Facilities. We are committed to working with DfT, MHCLG and HMRC to extend these arrangements to cover additional risks created by the special Custom Site policy.

We look forward to engaging with you further as the Freeport proposition moves to delivery over the coming months.

Yours sincerely,





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Brian Johnson
Chair, Solent Freeport Consortium Limited

