

NEWSLETTER

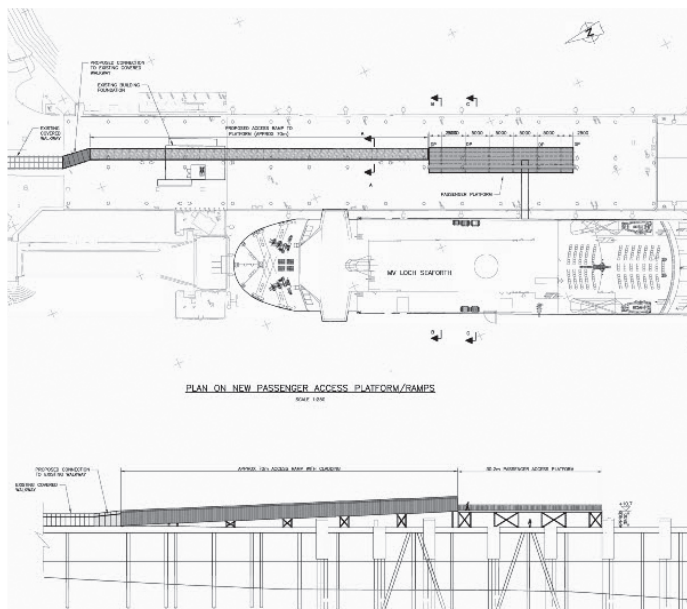
Monthly News Digest

Issue 3 / Summer 2025

Passenger Access System

Works continue to progress on the development of a bespoke replacement for the harbour's existing Passenger Access System (PAS). Following detailed engineering investigations, the original PAS is beyond economic repair after suffering catastrophic failure across multiple components. Independent experts concluded that even a full repair would not provide the safety or long-term reliability required.

Designs have now been developed and are moving towards tender stage and building warrant submission, and although slightly delayed, both the tender process and the building warrant process are programmed to commence in the next few weeks.



Due to the unique challenges presented by the MV Loch Seaforth's fixed shell door and Stornoway's wide tidal range, no off-the-shelf solution exists. The proposed system is a bespoke design, developed with a focus on long-term safety, resilience and accessibility.

The Port completely understand and share the frustration regarding the PAS being out of use.

This has been a complex situation subject to ongoing legal and commercial discussions, which complicates the operational aspects of the failure.

Stornoway Port continue to be focused on keeping passengers safe, keeping services running and finding the right long-term solution. The Port continues to work closely with CalMac and Ullapool Harbour to maintain smooth operations. Measures – including a dedicated luggage van and passenger assistance – remain in place and CalMac staff are on hand to assist foot passengers. Regular safety checks are also carried out on the current temporary access route.

2025 cruise season in full swing with largest vessels to ever dock in Stornoway

This summer we have welcomed two of the largest vessels to ever dock in Stornoway. The Queen Anne cruise ship, Cunard's newest luxury liner, recently made its first visit to Stornoway, marking a significant milestone for the port as it was the largest vessel to ever dock there. The ship carries more than 2,700 passengers and around 1,200 crew. The ship measures 323 metres in length with a gross tonnage of 113,000 tonnes.



The Queen Anne's call to Stornoway is also an indicator of the port's growing role within the UK's cruise tourism sector. Stornoway Port is set for a very busy 2025, with projections indicating over 60,000 passengers arriving throughout the season.

The popularity of the island as a cruise destination is expected to inject approximately £7.5 million into the local economy this year, benefiting a wide range of businesses across the Outer Hebrides.

The Britannia Cruise ship also visited Stornoway carrying over 3,600 passengers.



Pictured are Harbour Master Martin Graham, Assistant Harbour Master Chris Macdonald, and Cruise Manager Kirsty Hutchison with Queen Anne Cruise Ship Captains handing over plaques to mark the first visit to Stornoway.

Cromwell Street Quay comes to life

The redevelopment of Cromwell Street Quay has created a public space incorporating multi-functional facilities to serve the local and visitor market.



Tall Ships Races 2025

Stornoway Port proudly sponsored 10 young trainees from the Outer Hebrides to take part in the world-famous Tall Ships Races 2025 – giving them a

once-in-a-lifetime chance to sail aboard The Swan, Shetland's historic sail training vessel.

The group left Stornoway on Saturday 5 July before joining The Swan in Newcastle. They sailed to Dunkirk, where they spent several days as part of the Tall Ships host port celebrations. From there, the trainees joined the international race leg from Dunkirk to Aberdeen, arriving on Friday 18 July.

Sponsored by Stornoway Port, the 10 young people, aged between 15 and 25, took part in a maritime experience geared to build confidence, resilience and practical sailing skills. As part of The Swan's working crew, the trainees were responsible for hoisting sails, plotting courses, and navigating as they race alongside tall ships from across the globe.



Stornoway Port hosted the latest Scottish Ports Group meeting in June

Stornoway Port recently hosted a meeting of the Scottish Ports Group of the British Ports Association. Around 30 members from across Scotland including some from the BPAs London office attended the meeting. The meeting also included representatives of Transport Scotland, Marine Directorate Scotland, Crown Estate Scotland and also the Scottish national investment bank, discussing a wide range of important issues that affect ports and indeed the wider economy.



Stornoway Port

Amity House, Esplanade Quay, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis HS1 2XS

Tel: +44 (0)1851 702688 or Email: info@stornowayport.com

www.stornowayport.com

**Locally Invested.
Globally Recognised.**