

Stena Line's half-year volume figures

The number of passengers on the Stena Line Group's ferries, fell during the first 6 months of 1998 by 3 percent to 4.2 million (4.4 million). The number of private cars rose by 3 percent to 737,000 (717,000). The volume of freight fell by 1 percent, or 4000 units, to 350,000, trucks, trailers and railway wagons.

The volume figures for the Short Sea routes across the English Channel are not included in the comparison, as they are included in the joint-owned company, P&O Stena Line, from March 10 1998.

On the passenger side, the Group's volume trend has been disrupted by the HSS ferry, Stena Discovery, being out of service for 12 weeks during the first quarter. This negatively affected the volumes on the routes between Holland and England as well as between Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Since the HSS ferry has started operating again, the Group's passenger figures have improved from -11 percent at the end of the first quarter, to -3 percent at the end of the second quarter, in comparison to the same periods in 1997.

On the routes around the United Kingdom, freight volumes fell by 3 percent to 182,000 units (187,000) in a competitive market. Stena Line's position

was exacerbated by temporary capacity limitations on the northern corridor over the Irish Sea between Belfast and Stranraer.

Freight volumes on the Scandinavian routes increased marginally to 168,000 in the first 6 months. The increase was reduced by transport strikes in Denmark and Norway in the second quarter.

The volumes for P&O Stena Line have developed according to plan since the joint venture company commenced its services on March 10.

The volume figures route for route can be seen in the attached table.

Stena Line's interim financial report for January to June 1998, will be released on Monday, August 24.

Gothenburg, July 3 1998
Stena Line AB
Mats Kling,
Vice President,
Communications and Public Affairs

Questions from the media should be directed to Mats Kling on Tel: +46 31 85 83 29 or Sue Kirk at the Communication Department in England on Tel +44 (0) 1233 622 558.

Stena Line Group volume development January -June

Route	Passengers		Private cars ¹⁾		Freight units ²⁾	
	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997
Göteborg - Frederikshavn	1 208	1167	199	201	83.5	75.4
Varberg - Grenå	111	139	23	27	7.1	9.3
Halmstad - Grenå	112	138	24	31	11.4	12.2
Göteborg - Kiel	400	447	50	53	18.1	18.1
Göteborg - Travemünde	-	-	-	-	32.3	39.3
Oslo - Frederikshavn	241	253	27	28	7.4	7.5
Karlskrona - Gdynia	72	69	10	9	7.9	5.1
Total Scandinavia	2 144	2213	333	349	167.7	166.9
Hook of Holland - Harwich	425	508	78	77	55.0	58.8
Fishguard - Rosslare	327	325	76	66	17.2	18.5
Holyhead - Dun Laoghaire	737	682	133	112	21.3	17.7
Holyhead - Dublin	60	36	11	4	25.4	21.6
Stranraer - Belfast	551	609	106	111	63.0	70.5
Total Great Britain (excl. Short Sea)	2 100	2 160	404	370	181.9	187.1
Total Group	4 244	4 373	737	719	349.6	354.0
Short Sea (English Channel)						
Stena Line	496 ³⁾	2 908	83 ³⁾	474	55.8 ³⁾	200.2
P&O Stena Line	4 285 ⁴⁾	-	680 ⁴⁾	-	324.9 ⁴⁾	-

N.B. All figures rounded to the nearest 1,000 (passengers and private cars) or 100 (freight).

1) Including caravans and private car trailers.

2) The term freight units refers to trucks, trailers, containers and railway carriages.

3) Refers to the period January 1st - March 9th 1998. Thereafter see P&O Stena Line.

4) P&O Stena Line commenced operation on March 10, 1998. The volumes refer to the period March 10 - June 30, 1998.