



## **PASSENGERS CALL FOR BETTER ACCESS TO FERRY PORTS**

17th February 2014

Connections to ferry ports for foot passengers are nowhere near as good as they could be. This is the important conclusion of a report by campaign group Railfuture, based on its members' recent experiences. "Many of us have used ferries over the last year and a half and have reported problems in getting to and from the port, particularly by public transport, usually rail of course." said Trevor Garrod, who compiled the report.

"Some good Rail & Sail tickets exist, such as to Ireland and the Netherlands, but these need to be better promoted. All connecting bus and train possibilities need to be shown in rail timetable books and online, including bus shuttles between rail stations and ports."

The report singles out Holyhead, Dublin Port, Belfast and Cairnryan, in particular, where such transfers are not as easy as they should be. But some ports come in for praise. "Harwich is an example of a good one where you can come straight off the train into the terminal and on to the boat. On the other side of the Irish Sea, Dun Laoghaire is the obvious good example but it's grossly under used. Nearly all the ferries go to Dublin.. At Dun Laoghaire, you come off the boats and across the road there's the Dart station that'll take you to centre of Dublin. Dublin Port is a rather poor example as it's stuck out at the mouth of the Liffey, and you've got a bus ride that can take anything up to half an hour into the city centre before you make your onward journey"

The report is being sent to ferry operators, train companies, tourist bodies and political decision-makers."We hope that they will take things on board. Local authorities have a role to play too, particularly those who are seeking to attract foreign visitors. After all, those ferries are not just there for us to go abroad, they're also there for visitors to come into our country, and if they arrive as foot passengers and get a bad experience they may not come back again."

It is available online at <http://www.railfuture.org.uk/DL703> or can be obtained from Trevor Garrod, 15 Clapham Rd South, Lowestoft, NR32 1RQ ([trevor.garrod@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:trevor.garrod@railfuture.org.uk))

### **Notes to editors:**

Rail future surveyed 150 journeys in the 12 months up to the end of September 2013.

Railfuture is the UK's leading independent organisation campaigning for better rail services for both passengers and freight.

Railfuture's website can be found at: [www.railfuture.org.uk](http://www.railfuture.org.uk)

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