

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Historic Tyneside Business Supports “Hero” Seafarers During Coronavirus Crisis

NEWCASTLE-based shipping and marine insurer, North P&I Club (North), has lent its support to a number of local and international charities, drawing attention to the welfare of seafarers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As shipping is vital part of the international supply chain keeping our shelves stocked, many crews remain at sea, unable to see their loved ones, until restrictions ease.

North has ringfenced £40,000 of its North 150 Fund for maritime charities, including the Sailors’ Society. From providing mental health resources to grants for struggling seafarers and their families, North’s donation will make a big difference to those maintaining the supply chain at sea. North’s support also means the Sailors’ Society can offer helplines to seafarers experiencing loneliness, especially at a time when their next visit home could be some time away.

Paul Jennings, Chief Executive of North, said: *“The impact of this pandemic is huge, and the welfare of seafarers at this time is an issue close to our hearts. As a 160-year-old business with our roots here in the North East, we’re passionate about the shipping legacy of our region, and determined to support those working in the maritime industry in challenging times.”*

*“Our seafarers play a pivotal role in ensuring our supply chain keeps going. They are among the unsung heroes of this crisis. Without them, we wouldn’t have access to everyday essentials such as food and medicine. That’s why we’re doing what we can to show them our support.”*

In addition to funding maritime organisations, North has also been supporting a number of local charitable initiatives as they weather the coronavirus crisis. The Greggs Foundation, NUFC Foundation, Clothe & Feed and Ouseburn Farm have received additional support from North.

Paul added: *“From food parcels for families in need and help for the elderly and vulnerable, to emergency hospice funding and counselling for NHS frontline workers, we’re proud to be supporting the work of these vital charities in and around Tyneside.”*

*“As a well-established, historic business in the region, we take our CSR commitments seriously. When we’re all going through difficult times, it’s important that businesses and charities work together to benefit the whole community.”*

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## **North P&I Club**

North P&I Club is a leading global marine insurer with more than 160 years of history in the industry.

Founded and headquartered in Newcastle, North's reach stretches around the world - with regional offices in Greece, China (Shanghai and Hong Kong), Japan, Singapore, Ireland and the USA amongst others.

North is also part of the International Group; an association of 13 principal underwriting clubs insuring around 90% of the world's ocean-going tonnage.

The group has 90+ claims specialists and the largest team of specialist in-house maritime FD&D lawyers.

As well as assisting with loss prevention, North also provides technical and operational expertise from master mariners and engineers with many years of seagoing experience.

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