

PRESS RELEASE

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North P&I Club Hosts Early Intervention Event in Newcastle

North P&I Club hosted an Early Intervention event in Newcastle on Thursday, 10th October, attended by around 120 guests from P&I Clubs, shipping law firms, mediators and recoveries agents to discuss the benefits of early resolution.

Endorsed by North, SeaMediation Chambers' Early Intervention product is an additional, well established tool, that has been used more than 250 times since its launch in 2014. The process encourages participants to resolve disputes at an early stage, in line with established case management planning and The Law Society's best practice guidance.

By acting swiftly and appointing a neutral mediator, participants are able to retain control over a claim and have a say in the outcome, while avoiding a litigation process that is often lengthy and expensive. The use of a neutral mediator in these instances encourages both sides to engage sooner and speed up the claims process.

North's Chairman, Pratap Shirke, commented, "Academic research consistently shows a clear connection between early intervention and the length of time taken to resolve legal and commercial issues, and it's a link that's consistently confirmed by our experience at North. The landscape is fraught with challenges in the coming years. Shipowners will face a growing regulatory burden, difficult markets, and disruptive technologies. When disputes arise – as, unfortunately they inevitably will – Early Intervention provides a proven tool for resolution that is cost- and time-effective."

North's fast-paced, interactive conference chaired by Steve Mills, SeaMediation Chambers, highlighted the benefit for the membership of the IG Group as a means for prompt resolution of claims. He commented "Although a relatively recent innovation, Early Intervention has already been used by over 250 litigants in claims ranging from a few thousand dollars to tens of millions, and the savings on legal costs alone are estimated to be in the millions of pounds. The success rate is high with almost 80% of claims being resolved by the process, a figure which endorses North's view that managed claims-handling, alongside careful selection of an experienced neutral can introduce a new dynamic to any dispute."

Following each presentation, guests were asked to take part in surveys. Overall, responses were positive with David Richards, Deputy Director of Cargo observing: "It was encouraging that almost half the responders said they had engaged with Early Intervention in the past and only a small minority had considered Early Intervention but rejected it as an option. This was reinforced by the fact that 90% of responders said they were likely or very likely to consider using Early Intervention as a forerunner to a possible full mediation".

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North P&I Club

North P&I Club is a leading global marine insurer providing P&I, FD&D, war risks and ancillary insurance to over 200 million GT of owned and chartered tonnage. Through its guaranteed subsidiary Sunderland Marine, North is also a leading insurer of fishing vessels, small craft and aquaculture risks. The Standard and Poor's 'A' rated Club is based in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK with regional offices and subsidiaries in China (Hong Kong and Shanghai), Greece, Ireland, Japan, Singapore, USA and Sunderland Marine offices worldwide. North is a leading member of the International Group of P&I Clubs (IG), with over 12% of the IG's owned tonnage. The 13 IG clubs provide liability cover for approximately 90% of the world's ocean-going tonnage and, as a member of the IG, North protects and promotes the interests of the international shipping industry. For further information, visit:

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