

Business

Operations return to normal at English Channel port of Dover

Truss blames French authorities after unprecedented Channel port logjam

LONDON: Officials at the English Channel port of Dover on Sunday said operations had returned to normal, after two days of lengthy delays blamed on post-Brexit border checks.

Frustrated holidaymakers were forced to wait for hours to reach the port and board ferries to France on Friday and Saturday, at the start of the busy summer get-away. The UK government blamed France for failing to adequately staff their border posts at the port, prompting a swift denial from Paris.

The Port of Dover said the backlogs of freight and tourists from the last two days had been cleared overnight, although it said Sunday would remain "busy".

Some 72,000 passengers—the equivalent of 200 miles (320 kilometers) of traffic—had gone through the port already this weekend, it added. "With the entire port system working efficiently, including strong support from French border colleagues and ferries running through the night, the Port demonstrated that its summer plan will work for the rest of the holiday period," the port said in a statement.

Eurotunnel, however, warned of delays to its rail shuttle service between nearby Folkestone and Coquelles in northern France, with motorists facing long queues to get to the terminal.

There were fears about chronic delays at Britain's ports even before the country left the European Union in full on January 1 last year. Brexit ended free movement from Britain to EU member states, reintroducing systematic passport checks and customs controls for the first time in decades. French border agency staff work alongside their UK counterparts to conduct checks at Dover.

Port officials initially said under-staffing of French border posts was to blame for the queues but officials across the Channel denied they were responsible. French lawmakers said checks now took longer because Britain has "third-country" status outside the EU, and urged facilities to be improved at Dover.

Britain's readiness to cope at the border, including

staffing and the introduction of new technology, was repeatedly questioned in the run-up to Brexit taking full effect.

Queues of lorries have already been seen at Dover but operations for tourist traffic have not been tested until now because of COVID travel restrictions. Several British newspapers on Sunday said the government turned down a £33-million (39-million-euro, \$40-million) bid for upgrades at the port, including new passport control booths.

UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss laid the blame squarely on Paris, telling her French counterpart Catherine Colonna that "the French authorities have not put enough people on the border."

The situation has added to the bad blood between London and Paris in the wake of Brexit, scotching hopes of a reset after Boris Johnson said earlier this month he was stepping down as premier.

"We need to see action from them (the French) to resolve the terrible situation which travelers, including families, are facing," said Truss, who is currently fighting to succeed Johnson as prime minister.

But Paris has rejected claims that the gridlock was caused by under-staffing and Colonna in her tweet took a more sanguine view of their conversation, describing the talks as "good" and welcoming the "cooperation" to reduce the delays. Colonna also underlined the "need to improve facilities at the Port of Dover."

Tweeting the front page of Britain's right-wing Daily Telegraph which had the headline "Truss tells France to fix holiday chaos", France's Transport Minister Clement Beaune said the French authorities were "mobilized" to ease movement.

But in a jab at London, the former Europe minister added: "France is not responsible for Brexit".

'More checks than before'

Border checks and extra paperwork for freight traffic were reintroduced when Britain left the European Union last year, ending free movement for people and goods in



LONDON: Operations returned to normal on Sunday after two days of lengthy delays at English Channel Port Dover.

the bloc. Bottlenecks of lorries at Dover have been seen since then but this summer is the first with unrestricted travel for the public since the lifting of all COVID restrictions.

French lawmaker Pierre-Henri Dumont, whose constituency includes the French Channel port of Calais, called the travel chaos "an aftermath of Brexit". "We have to run more checks than before," he told BBC television, predicting it would happen again. Port of Dover chief executive Doug Bannister initially blamed a lack of French border agency staff for the logjam which saw some holidaymakers wait six hours or longer to catch their ferries.

But he conceded there were now "increased transaction times" post-Brexit. The port was confident of handling the demand at peak periods, he added. Brexit figurehead Johnson made "taking back control" of UK borders a rallying call for his "leave" campaign in the 2016 vote on EU membership.

Since becoming prime minister, he has found that more difficult, with record numbers of migrants crossing from northern France in small boats. Lucy Moreton, from the ISU union that represents borders, immigration and customs staff, said the tailbacks were a "reasonably predictable" result of Brexit. "This is the time that it's chosen to bite," she told the BBC. —AFP

Central Agency for Public Tenders shows activities

Central Agency for Public Tenders Awarding Tenders from 1/1/2022 to 31/3/2022			
Entity	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
75	1	2,000,000	950,000
Kuwait University			
77	1	1,500,000	1,454,000
Kuwait Credit Bank			
Total		433,334,732	445,038,101

Central Agency for Public Tenders Awarded Tenders from 1/1/2022 to 31/3/2022			
Entity	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
13	10	25,655,000	14,532,536
Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy			
14	1	3,000,000	1,911,000
Ministry of Public Works			
15	1	1,400,000	926,605
Ministry of Justice			
17	1	576,000	616,032
Ministry of Commerce and Industry			
18	10	326,801,743	369,603,865
Ministry of Health			
22	3	3,272,250	4,236,870
Ministry of Defense			
23	4	7,161,000	5,289,990
Ministry of Social Affairs			
24	6	7,900,054	7,593,852
Ministry of Education			

Central Agency for Public Tenders Awarding Tenders from 1/4/2022 to 30/6/2022			
Entity	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
77	1	540,000	504,648
Kuwait Credit Bank			
Total for all entities		142,369,409	122,897,132

Central Agency for Public Tenders Awarded Tenders from 1/4/2022 to 30/6/2022			
Entity	Tenders number	Estimated value	Awarding value
28	1	41,356,905	41,037,556
Council of Ministers General Secretariat			
30	1	2,400,000	1,116,000
Kuwait Municipality			
34	1	540,000	421,668
Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development			
37	1	300,000	259,893
Public Authority for Sport			
39	1	116,000	104,364
General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development			
54	1	2,000,000	1,500,000
Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects			
64	1	1,200,000	967,413
The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training			
75	1	1,600,000	750,400
Kuwait University			



Osama Alduaij, Secretary General of Central Agency for Public Tenders

KUWAIT: Central Agency for Public Tenders issued its awarded tenders and its values for the period from 1-1-2022 until 31-3-2022.

The numbers showed that the tenders' estimated value is 433,334,732 while the awarding value was 445,038,101.

Details are in the following tables:

The Central Agency for Public Tenders Board of Directors Approval Decisions from 1/1/2022 to 31/3/2022										
Approved Entity	No. of tenders	Public tenders	Private tenders	Contract value	Estimated value	Actual value	Number of tenders	Number of tenders	Number of tenders	Number of tenders
Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy	10	10	0	25,655,000	14,532,536	14,532,536	10	10	10	10
Ministry of Public Works	1	1	0	3,000,000	1,911,000	1,911,000	1	1	1	1
Ministry of Justice	1	1	0	1,400,000	926,605	926,605	1	1	1	1
Ministry of Commerce and Industry	1	1	0	576,000	616,032	616,032	1	1	1	1
Ministry of Health	10	10	0	326,801,743	369,603,865	369,603,865	10	10	10	10
Ministry of Defense	3	3	0	3,272,250	4,236,870	4,236,870	3	3	3	3
Ministry of Social Affairs	4	4	0	7,161,000	5,289,990	5,289,990	4	4	4	4
Ministry of Education	6	6	0	7,900,054	7,593,852	7,593,852	6	6	6	6
Total decisions	38	38	0	433,334,732	445,038,101	445,038,101	38	38	38	38

The Central Agency for Public Tenders Board of Directors Approval Decisions from 1/4/2022 to 30/6/2022										
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Kuwait Credit Bank	1	1	0	540,000	504,648	504,648	1	1	1	1
Total decisions	1	1	0	540,000	504,648	504,648	1	1	1	1

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Ministry of Justice	1	1	0	1,400,000	926,605	926,605	1	1	1	1
Ministry of Commerce and Industry	1	1	0	576,000	616,032	616,032	1	1	1	1
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