



## Department for Transport

From the Parliamentary  
Under-Secretary of State  
**Keir Mather MP**

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Lord Watson of Invergowrie  
Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee  
House of Lords  
SW1A 0PW

27 November 2025

Dear Lord Watson,

### **The Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2025**

I am writing regarding the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2025 (“the Regulations”), which were laid for sifting on 5 September 2025 under procedures in the Retained EU (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 powers. The Regulations were subsequently approved for making using the negative procedure on 16 September 2025.

Following recent issues with some of its Statutory Instruments, the Department has been undertaking additional checks. During this process, it was identified that the Regulations do not cite all the necessary legal powers. As a result, the Regulations are being amended and will be re-laid for sifting through the committees.

I want to apologise to your committee for this error. I would like to take this opportunity to reassure the committee that I will be focussing closely on the MCA’s delivery across its whole portfolio.

Across the Department, there has also been a great deal of work to improve our SI delivery and reduce errors through robust processes, strengthened governance and increased capability. Unfortunately, this has not yet delivered the level of improvement we need. I am committed to ensuring that the Department's performance improves and have asked officials to set out proposals for further action. I will be closely monitoring SI and EM quality and can assure you that as DfT's SI Minister I take this very seriously.

I am arranging for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House of Lords.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Keir Mather'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**KEIR MATHER MP**

**MINISTER FOR AVIATION, MARITIME AND DECARBONISATION**