

Kent Action Against Live Exports (KAALE)

"I never give them hell. I just tell the truth and they think it's hell."

President Harry S Truman

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Who Is In Charge of Ramsgate Port; a British Port ?

– The Dutch Animal Exporters or the Port Authorities / Harbour Master ?

– It Would Appear, the Dutch Animal Exporters.

At 2.45 today, 23.11.12, I received a phone call from a supporter informing me that 3 transporters full of sheep were at Minster, pointing towards Ramsgate.

We immediately rang the port and were told the ship had not booked in to sail.

Concerned, I rang supporters with a view to getting them down the dock. I then had a call from a reliable source, informing me that the port were refusing to allow the ship to load as they had not booked in, and that the lorries, 4 in total, had arrived at the port but been told to leave.

I told people to relax, only to have a further call telling me that even though the Harbour Master had told the ship it could not come onto the berth, the ship was now blockading the port and had switched off its radio so as to avoid getting orders from the port.

This action caused two wind farm vessels to have to take avoiding action as they tried to access their berth.

The next call informed me that the Thanet District Council's legal team had arrived at the port and over ridden the port authorities stand and told them to allow the ship to come onto the berth and load the four vehicles. The legal team said that they had to allow it because of the judges words when he lifted the suspension, mainly that the trade hadn't to be interfered with in any way.

A cursory inspection by Animal Health took place and the vehicles loaded with the ship sailing at 16.15hrs.

The *RSPCA* inspectors arrived just as the ship sailed and no contact with Kent police was made. To accommodate Animal Health and Peter Z, (the Joline vessel agent), the back door gates of the port were opened for them to slip out thus avoiding the protesters now assembling at the main entrance.

The transporters were the two from Wednesday; Onderwater driving the 'boxed' vehicle and Trevor Head's vehicle with Trevor Head himself driving.



The 'Box Wagon' – Photographed at Wed 21st Sailing Which had to Later U Turn Mid channel and Return to Ramsgate because of Bad Weather Conditions and the Inability of the 'Joline' to Make Progress in a Force 9.

There was also a J.de Jong vehicle, which we believe belongs to Onderwater himself and a Red and Silver Scania. These last two vehicles probably being the ones that didn't manage to get to the subsequently aborted sailing on Wednesday.

It now looks to us as though Onderwater, backed by Tom Lomas, is now running Ramsgate port with the people (TDC), who are supposed to run it, decisions being brushed aside in favour of the demands of the exporters.

What hold do these Dutch (NON UK Nationals) exporters have over the British government / authorities when their demands are paramount to paid experts running our British ports ?

We believe a dangerous situation.

Yvonne – KAALE.

