**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF STENA LINE**

**December 20th, 2016**

***SANTA* LINE ALL SET FOR A *FERRY* BUSY CHRISTMAS**

***145,000 passengers and 43,000 cars booked to cross Irish Sea with Stena Line over Christmas***

CHRIS REA famously sang about *Driving Home for Christmas* but he should maybe have included a line about taking the boat as Ireland’s biggest ferry company Stena Line looks forward to another busy festive season.

A whopping 43,000 cars and a total of 145,000 passengers have been booked to travel on Stena Line’s Irish Sea routes during the Christmas period from December 16 to January 3.

With no fewer than 224 weekly crossings across the company’s five routes between Ireland and Great Britain, there is still very limited availability for anyone who hasn’t yet booked but the advice is to not to hang around like the proverbial Christmas stocking or you’ll be travelling nowhere this year.

Stena Line’s Diane Poole said: “As always, the Christmas period is set to be a very busy one for Stena Line with approximately 145,000 passengers and 43,000 cars currently booked to travel between now and January 3. The busiest period within this is December 21-23 and our crossings from January 2-4 are also particularly busy as people return home after the Christmas holidays.

“However, given the size of our fleet and choice of routes, we still have some very limited availability for anyone planning a last minute trip home but you’d really need to be booking as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.  We have no sailings on Christmas Day on any of our routes,” she added.

There are a range of options for travellers making a trip across the Irish Sea this Christmas.

Rail and Sail packages are available from £30\* single and coach packages from just £23 single, while drivers wanting to take their car are advised to check out the *Low Fares Finder* on the Stena Line website.

Stena Line carries more passengers between Ireland and Britain than all other ferry operators combined, offering the biggest fleet and the widest choice of routes including Belfast to Cairnryan, Belfast to Liverpool, Belfast to Heysham, Dublin to Holyhead and Rosslare to Fishguard routes.

For more information or to make a booking, log onto [www.stenaline.co.uk](http://www.stenaline.co.uk), call **08447 70 70 70 or visit your local travel office or agent.**

*\*Coach and sail packages are available from £30 on the Belfast-Cairnryan and Belfast-Liverpool routes, from £39 single on Dublin-Holyhead and £41 single on Rosslare-Fishguard.*

**[ends]**

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:  For further information, please contact Fiona Brown or Michael Rafferty of Duffy Rafferty Communications on +44 (0) 28 9073 0880.**