**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF STENA LINE**

**5 December, 2013**

**12 DAYS OF FESTIVE FASTNESS FROM STENA LINE**

*The HSS is back and driving customers home for Christmas*

THOUSANDS of people will be driving home for Christmas with the Stena HSS Explorer as Ireland’s leading ferry company has announced the return of the Fastcraft for 12 days over the festive season.

The Christmas service on Stena Line’s Dun Laoghaire to Holyhead route, which will run December 20 – 23, December 27 – 30 and January 2 – 5, will provide people travelling to Britain to visit family and friends, enjoying a short break or taking advantage of the New Year sales with an additional sailing to choose from.

The service will do one roundtrip per day departing Holyhead at 10.30am and Dun Laoghaire at 1.30pm on the selected dates. Passengers can look forward to a relaxing journey with lots to do onboard including a children’s play area and entertainment, free Wi-Fi and festive movies and wonderful dining options, not to mention an onboard shop which offers up to 40% savings compared to the high street on a wide range of cosmetics, jewellery, spirits and fragrances, perfect for those last minute gifts and treats.

Stena Line’s Head of PR and Communications, Diane Poole, OBE said: “We are delighted to be bringing back the Stena HSS Explorer over the Christmas period. We always experience extra demand at this time of year, so the additional capacity will be of great help to customers. The HSS also brings with it its own unique brand of style and comfort plus the additional option of Dun Laoghaire port.

“Speed across the Irish Sea and arrive in Britain in only 2 hours 20 minutes. Everyone deserves a break this Christmas and taking the ferry is the perfect way to travel as people can look forward to a stress free experience, arriving at their final destination relaxed and ready for the celebrations ahead.

Stena Line expects a high demand for sailings over Christmas and is advising customers to book early for the best fares and to secure preferred sailings by visiting [www.stenaline.ie/christmas](http://www.stenaline.ie/christmas), calling **01 204 7777** or visiting your local Stena Line office or travel agent.

 **[Ends]**

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES: For further information please contact Fiona Brown of Duffy Rafferty Communications on 048 9073 0880.**