



Making an Impact – MNWB Grants awarded in 2022

MNWB's main priority is to provide support services to its Constituents, PWCs and working groups, and its secondary priority is to provide capital grants. The amount made available for grants annually is based on the overall return from the investment portfolio after deducting revenue costs and services to Constituents. Under the Small Grants Programme, the Chair and Chief Executive are authorised to allocate individual grants of up to £5,000 throughout the year, up to a total annual limit of £50,000. In 2022, an overall sum of £160,795 was awarded in capital grants and £103,100 to jointly funded projects.

MNWB grants awarded in 2022 are as follows:

Care Ashore – Disabled flat refurbishment & accessible doors
Grant awarded £27,090.00

The grant was used to replace two existing external doors and amend one internal door with ones which have automatic systems to allow for use by residents who have mobility difficulties and need doors in place which facilitate access. Work was also carried out to convert one ground flat into dedicated disabled accommodation with suitable access, accessible switches etc. and a wet room.

The Fishermen's Mission – The Troon Refurbishment Project
Grant awarded £33,360.00

The aim of the Troon Refurbishment Project was to provide a modern, comfortable recreation space for fishers that live in boats while in harbour that could be easily adapted to provide a bespoke space for fishers to access vital professional training.

QVSR – Renovation of front facia of the QVSR building & communal garden
Grant awarded £40,000.00

Work was carried out to complete the replacement of all windows at the front of the building. Repairs were also needed to some of the windowsills which were crumbling and presented a potential danger of falling masonry. As these works required scaffolding the opportunity was taken to transform the exterior by rendering it in a bright white finish to modernise the building. Improvements were also made to the rear garden as part of the decking had to be removed due to rotten joists. The garden is a vital resource for residents and therefore it is

important that QVSR has an outdoor space which is accessible and inviting and that can be used for communal resident activities or relaxation.

Stella Maris – Lone Working Devices for ship visiting

Grant awarded £30,570.00

Stella Maris Chaplains and volunteer ship visitors visit 10,000 ships per annum in over 70 ports across Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Some of the visits involve two members of staff, but many are conducted alone. Through the Loan Worker Devices, Stella Maris is able to give greater support and care, and give confidence to the Chaplains and volunteers when they visit seafarers and vessels.

Grimsby Cleethorpes Sea Cadets Corps – Fully integrated fire alarm system upgrade

Grant awarded £7,755.60

The grant was used to fund an upgraded intergrated fire alarm system. Prior to this work the unalarmed buildings could not be legally used by cadets for sleepovers and weekend activities. By having all four buildings alarmed the attendance number of cadets could be doubled.

Merchant Navy Association – Merchant Navy Day Commemorative Service and Reunion

Grant awarded £500.00

This grant is used for the annual Merchant Navy Day Commemorative Service and Reunion which took place on 4th September 2022 and was held at the Merchant Navy Memorial at Tower Hill, London.

Aberdeen Seafarers’ Centre – Preparation of premises for new seafarers’ centre

Grant awarded £4,960.00

The grant funded a Chaplain’s office and lounge facilities for active and retired seafarers at Aberdeen seafarers’ centre. The centre provides shore-based welfare facilities for visiting seafarers in Aberdeen and a place to meet and socialise for retired seafarers. It is also used as a focal point for delivering welfare services to retired local seafarers and their families.

Nautilus Welfare Fund – Replacement Supporting People grant for Community Alarm and Response service

Grant awarded £5,000.00

The grant covered the loss of Supporting People Funding from July - December 2022 for those residents at NWF who are eligible for Housing Benefit support. This service was previously funded by the local service and the MNWB grant covered the shortfall until the end of the financial year. The Supported Housing at Mariners' Park benefits from the provision of a community alarm and response service. This gives residents and their families peace of mind that if they fall or are taken ill they can summon assistance 24/7.

Stella Maris – Fawley Seafarers’ Centre new sofa
Grant awarded £1,559.20

At Fawley oil refinery, Stella Maris runs a small, unmanned centre to assist the crews of tankers coming into the port. They will have been at sea for many weeks and use the centre for respite. Fawley is one of the busiest ports in Britain, with over 1,000 vessels visiting every year, and with redevelopments to the terminal, this is only set to grow. An estimated 1,000 merchant seafarers visit the centre every year. The sofas in the centre were old and needed replacing. The cabin is sometimes used by crew who are awaiting to go on ship in a new contract and may even need to sleep overnight in the cabin.

Mission to Seafarers – North Tees & Hartlepool – Air conditioning system
Grant awarded £5,000.00

The North Tees & Hartlepool Mission to Seafarers’ seafarer centre plays an important role in the welfare of visiting seafarers. Here, seafarers gain some invaluable respite from life on their vessels, during the short 'turn-around' period between unloading their cargo, reloading and returning to sea again. The old oil-boiler was over twenty years old and would break down routinely. This grant funded an air-conditioning system to provide heating in the winter and keep the centre cool in the summer.

PWC Promotion & Emergency Fund
Grant Awarded £5,000.00

The Board sets aside an annual grant of up to £500 for PWCs to promote seafarers’ welfare and raise the profile of each committee locally.

The emergency fund for small grants, normally up to £150 per person, can be awarded in cases where an eligible vulnerable client has been identified as having no visible means of support. This enables them, normally through a voucher, to purchase essential items whilst their application for assistance is being processed.

PARTNERSHIP & MNWB PROJECTS

MNWB Vehicle Replacement Programme

Annual contribution £39,000.00

The VRP is one of the Board's most popular and successful programmes. It is managed by MNWB and jointly funded by MNWB, The Seafarers' Charity, ITF Seafarers' Trust and Trinity House. Having started in 2008, the now annual vehicle replacement project gives substantial grants to help voluntary organisations purchase new vehicles. The project enables welfare personnel to undertake ship and home visits as well as transporting seafarers in and around the ports. The programme helps replace minibuses, MPVs and cars that remain essential to the provision of welfare services to our seafarers.

MNWB & Trinity House - Recognition to Carers

£4,500.00

MNWB and Trinity House joined forces on behalf of the maritime charity sector to thank and congratulate hundreds of staff and volunteers for providing exceptional support to UK Merchant Navy Seafarers during Covid-19. In recognition of this selfless support, the staff and volunteers, who work in maritime charity care homes, sheltered accommodation and hostels, were each given a £20 Amazon voucher. The organisations were also sent a Certificate of Appreciation and Marks & Spencer voucher to purchase lunch for their team.

MNWB – Port Visitor Platform

Annual contribution £40,000.00

The success of the UK welfare board (PWC) system influenced ILO MLC, 2006, regulation 4.4 encouraging the establishment of similar welfare boards at local, regional and national level in order to review, support and promote seafarers' welfare in ports worldwide. As such, it provides an excellent example for other countries and ports around the world to follow, which is the primary aim of the IPWP project. To facilitate collaborative working, the Port Visitor platform brings together key stakeholders from the maritime community to directly co-ordinate port welfare services and facilities. The platform is unique in that, when fully launched, it will provide the most comprehensive source of port welfare information for seafarers and offer a set of tools to welfare boards that enable port based welfare services and facilities to review and report at local, regional and national level.

MNWB, DfT and The Seafarers' Charity - MiFi project

£4,500.00

The Department for Transport, The Seafarers' Charity and MNWB all agreed to fund another year of this collaborative initiative, which has continued to provide a lifeline for seafarers and fishers, particularly during the pandemic. The project, which started in 2019 as a pilot project funded by ITF Seafarers' Trust, is managed by the MNWB and supports the work of front-line welfare societies, providing seafarers and fishers in ports around the UK with access to free internet to connect with their families and friends. There are 40 MiFi units deployed throughout the UK to the following Maritime Welfare Charities' (MWCs) who provide welfare visits to ships arriving in UK ports: Aberdeen Seafarers' Centre, The Fishermen's Mission, Liverpool Seafarers' Centre, Mission to Seafarers, Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest, Stella Maris and Sailors' Society.

Maritime Charities Group
Annual contribution £10,000.00

The MCG fosters collaboration across the maritime charity sector. It does this by sharing information, commissioning research, supporting the education and welfare of seafarers and their families and by the promotion of best practice within the maritime charity sector. Its vision is for a maritime charity sector that works collaboratively to achieve the greatest impact for seafarers and their families.

Merchant Navy Medal
Annual Contribution £100.00

The Board administers the Merchant Navy Honours Consultative Committee (MNHCC) on behalf of the UK maritime industry. The committee, formally known as the Merchant Navy Medal Committee, meets by agreement with the Department for Transport and acts in an advisory capacity. The MNHCC can recommend awards to persons from the maritime industry that include higher Honours and medals for acts of courage. The Board operates the Merchant Navy Medal website www.merchantnavymedal.org , provides the Committee secretary and administers the MNM restricted fund.

MNWB & Trinity House – Ukrainian Seafarers’ Emergency Communication Fund
Grant awarded £5,000.00

Following the crisis in Ukraine, the Board set up a £5K Ukrainian Seafarers’ Emergency Communication Fund to fund the purchase of SIM cards for Ukrainian seafarers to contact home. Trinity House matched this by also awarding £5K.