



Victoria Terminal 3,
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25th March 2020

RE: COVID 19 – Increased Dwell time of Containers on terminals

Dear Clients,

The UK Government and NI Executive has recognised transport as an essential service and accordingly the services we are offering at Victoria Terminal 3 (VT3) are regarded as essential services. It is seen as critical at this time to keep supply chains moving to ensure essential foodstuffs and medicines reach the end consumers in a timely manner.

Our terminal is designed for the transit of cargo and any bottlenecks can cause a severe impact on the efficiency and smooth flow of cargo through the terminal.

One of the main factors that affects that efficiency is the number of days containers are left sitting on our terminal, we refer to this as **Dwell time**.

Due to unfortunate temporary closures of various businesses we are seeing an increase in the number of requests for extended Dwell time on our terminal. It is critical that we keep the flow of essential foodstuffs and medicines moving through our terminal and therefore **we need to maintain the current Dwell time arrangements we have in place and we cannot extend same**.

We would request that import containers are picked up within the allowed free period and export shipments are only booked on nominated vessels within the free period.

We will continue to monitor the number of long stay containers and, if the situation deteriorates and impacts on the efficiency of our operation we may need to implement more punitive measures.

We trust you understand the necessity to keep essential goods flowing at this unprecedented time and look forward to your co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

Belfast Container Terminal