

30 March 2007

**Response from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency – MV Athena**

The MCA have provided a response summarised as follows:

- *“The [MCA] received one complaint regarding the Athena cruise which commenced in Falmouth on 10 September. The complaint was from a passenger who received injuries during the cruise and expressed their concerns about the safety of the ship. This complaint was received after the MCA had already attended the vessel to carry out an inspection”*
- *The MCA has confirmed that they have only provided an acknowledgement to the aforementioned complainant’s letter. No response was requested by the complainant, and none was given by the MCA*
- *The MCA did not make any enquiries of the ship or its Master before it set sail*
- *Following the return of the vessel they state, “When the vessel returned to Falmouth an MCA Surveyor attended the vessel on 5 October 2006 to carry out an inspection, as part of the inspection the attending surveyor reviewed the handrails in way of the passenger accommodation. Recommendations were made to the Master that the vessels operator in conjunction with the vessels Flag Administration should review the hand rail arrangements in way of the cross alleys”*
- *The MCA has not had any contact with the RCMP or the Coroner in Halifax and therefore have no documents to disclose*
- *The MCA did not carry out any further enquiry except for the aforementioned inspection, “further enquiries are the responsibility of the vessels Flag Administration*
- *The MCA is not carrying out a public enquiry, this would have to be requested “at a much higher governmental level”*
- *The MCA further advise that, “at the time of the incident the MCA contacted the Portuguese Flag Administration to verify that they were aware of a death and several injuries had occurred on board. The Portuguese Flag Administration advised the MCA via telephone that they would be attending the vessel on arrival in Portugal on 7 October 2006. The MCA have no further information regarding this matter”*

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