

# Modern Apprentice Programme Launched in Scotland

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Forth Ports launches Modern Apprentice Programme in Scotland**

Forth Ports has launched its first Modern Apprentice Programme in Scotland. Working in partnership with SQA (Scottish Qualifications Board), Port Skills & Safety and Unite the Union and RMT trade unions, the port operator which employs almost 500 in Scotland, begins the programme to provide training and mentoring for young apprentices.

The new programme has been approved by the Modern Apprenticeship Group (MAG) and more significantly, is the first approval of a modern apprenticeship programme for a Port Operator in the UK.

Forth Port's Modern Apprenticeship programme – the Maritime Occupations SCQF Level 5 framework Additional Pathway - will provide the opportunity for individuals, aged 18 or over, to get first class training and mentoring from the business whilst gaining a professional qualification through tailored learning and development. Already 19 existing employees have been registered to undertake the VQ in Port Operations.

Apprenticeships will be available across the business in port operations, engineering, and central services. The training will be a blended approach of gaining knowledge and skills through on-the-job assessment and developing core skills like numeracy, communication, ICT and problem solving.

Commenting on the launch, **Charles Hammond, Chief Executive of Forth Ports** said: *“We are thrilled to launch our new Modern Apprenticeship programme in Scotland. Having a qualified and skilled workforce is vital to grow our business and I am confident that our new programme will result in many successes for candidates. We employ almost 500 people in our operations throughout Scotland and it is our responsibility to ensure that we manage the succession planning for the future.”*

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**Notes to editors:**

**Forth Ports**

Forth Ports Limited owns and operates eight commercial ports in the UK – Tilbury on the Thames, Dundee on the Firth of Tay and six on the Firth of Forth – Leith, Grangemouth, Rosyth, Methil, Burntisland and Kirkcaldy.

Within and around the Firths of Forth and Tay, Forth Ports manages and operates an area of 280 square miles of navigable waters, including two specialised marine terminals for oil and gas export and provides other marine services, such as towage and conservancy.

[www.forthports.co.uk](http://www.forthports.co.uk)