

A New Chapter: Bristol Port's Signal Station Embraces Modern Era

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After 60 years on Avonmouth Dock's south pier, the VTS team has recently undergone a significant relocation to the existing Portbury Tower in Royal Portbury Dock.

The new Signal Station in Portbury.

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This move marks a transition to a refurbished, modern facility equipped with state-of-the-art VHF equipment, radios, and ergonomic stand-up desks, fostering a more efficient and comfortable work environment.

Sharing the building with Lock Engineers and Lock Keepers enhances communication among teams. Despite the move, the station will maintain a two-person team comprising a Duty Assistant Harven Master and a Vessel Traffic Services Officer, ensuring seamless operations.

The relocation anticipates upcoming Environment Agency flood defence works in Avonmouth Dock, encompassing the former signal station.

Dave Herbert, who has worked for over 26 years in the previous signal station, expressed his delight at the change. Living in Portishead, he notes, "One of the benefits I have is that I won't need to face the M5 bridge when cycling into work!"

The Port is a Statutory and Competent Harbour Authority with some 3,000 commercial vessel movements each year, ranging from small coasters to post-Panamax. The Signal Station have the responsibility of providing safe passage for all vessel movements from Steep Holm to the Second Severn Crossing, up to the Cumberland Basin along the River Avon.

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