How would you describe the working conditions of seafarers?

I believe that it is a clear and genuine understanding that the working conditions of seafarers are extremely tough and often very dangerous. For those who work at sea, the conditions can be incredibly challenging, with long hours of work and exposure to harsh environments.

What does the Merchant Naval Medal award mean to you?

It is a great honour to receive the medal, and I am humbled by the support I've received from my colleagues and peers across the industry. Whilst I'm delighted to be recognised alongside many esteemed colleagues and shipping professionals, it is a great honour to be a part of this event.

What will Brexit mean for the UK maritime sector?

The impact of Brexit on the UK maritime sector will depend on the outcome of the negotiations. If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, there will likely be significant challenges for the industry, including potential disruption to supply chains and increased bureaucratic hurdles. If the UK remains in the EU, there will be continued cooperation on maritime issues, but the specifics of that cooperation will depend on the terms of the agreement.

What more can the industry do to support their well-being?

The industry can do more to support the well-being of seafarers by providing better living conditions, improving pay, and ensuring fair treatment. They can also invest in mental health support and encourage seafarers to seek help when needed.

The criminalisation of the maritime profession has a damaging impact on not only the individuals who can be criminalised but also their families and communities. The fair treatment of seafarers is one of our biggest priorities at the moment, and we will continue to work towards ensuring that seafarers are treated fairly and with respect.

What can we do as an industry to support seafarers?

As an industry, we can support seafarers by advocating for better working conditions, better pay, and better living standards. We can also invest in mental health support and encourage seafarers to seek help when needed.

Reducing stress by providing adequate resources

Reducing stress is crucial for seafarers to maintain their mental health and wellbeing. Providing adequate resources, such as access to healthcare and mental health support, can help seafarers manage the stress of their work.

Implementing improvements would be:

- Establishing clear guidelines and standards for seafarers' work, including working hours and rest periods.
- Ensuring that seafarers are paid fairly and receive adequate compensation for their work.
- Providing adequate resources for mental health support, including access to qualified counselors and therapists.
- Encouraging seafarers to seek help when needed and providing a safe and supportive environment.
- Investing in the education and training of seafarers, including mental health awareness training.

In summary, the working conditions of seafarers need to be significantly improved to ensure that seafarers can work in a safe, healthy, and rewarding environment.

Around 1,650,000 seafarers crew the world’s ships, with many of these working very long hours, in dangerous conditions.

I am pleased that an agreed minimum wage was achieved, which will rise to USD 641 per month over the first three years, with a maximum increase in the minimum wage of 2.2% per year on average.

I also find it shocking that in this day and age, access to the internet at sea is not viewed as a basic human right. The internet is a vital tool for communication, education, and entertainment, and it is essential for seafarers to have access to it.

The telegraph and our website for evidence of those wins. Despite this, there’s still a lot of work to be done to bring the conditions faced by seafarers, and others in the maritime and shipping industry, in line with the rest of the world.

The realisation is that understanding of these things will be lost if the UK departs from the EU and is the point for us to follow and not be less than this to go when it is possible, in the best of times, that a UK’s departure will not bring a lot of hope and for sate of the EU. Sweden depends on not being given up. This is a big commitment for our members and to continue the momentum, we will have to work through our own initiatives and not just rely on the EU.