

News Release

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23 February 1990

CHRIS PATTEN SWINGS INTO ACTION IN LONDON DOCKLANDS

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

The first official swing of the new Connaught Crossing road bridge will be marked by a visit from Environment Secretary, Chris Patten, on Wednesday 28 February 1990.

The new cable-stayed swing bridge, connecting the north and south sides of the Royal Docks will allow large boats to pass into the Royal Victoria Dock from the Thames, via the Royal Albert Dock and the refurbished King George V Lock. The 80 metre bridge is part of the London Docklands Development Corporation's £24 million Connaught Crossing infrastructure scheme.

The 1500 tonne bridge was built and painted in Rotterdam and floated across the English Channel by barge in December last year. It has a clearance of 5.5 metres to allow small boats to pass underneath, through the dock cutting between the Royal Victoria and Royal Albert Docks.

Design and construction supervision of the Connaught Crossing scheme is being carried out by Sir William Halcrow & Partners. The dual carriageway road will link North Woolwich Road and Factory Road, in the south, to Connaught Road and the new Royal Albert Dock Spine Road, in the north, with roundabouts at both junctions. A

third roundabout forms an eastward link to Connaught Road and London City Airport and a westward link to the Pontoon Dock area on the south side of Royal Victoria Dock.

The first phase of the scheme, the southern section, was built by Norwest Holst and completed in early 1989. The middle section, including positioning of the bridge, was constructed by Peter Birse Ltd. The final section, to the north, also under construction by Peter Birse, should be completed in Autumn this year.

For further information contact:

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London Docklands Visitor Centre
3 Limeharbour
LONDON E14 9TJ

Tel: 01-515 3000

Note to Editors.

If you wish to send a representative to the photocall at 11.30 am on Wednesday, 28 February 1990, please contact the LDDC Press Office on the above number.

Parking is limited in the area, therefore a **coach will leave at 11.15 am sharp** to take photographers and journalists to the northern approach of the bridge from:

LDDC Royal Docks Office
North Side of Royal Victoria Dock
Gate 8
Connaught Road
LONDON E16 1BW

Tel: 01-515 3000

The coach will return to the Royal Docks office after the photocall.