

## PRESS RELEASE

April 29 2006

### Over 330 Travel Counsellors welcome arrival of Freedom of the Seas

Over 330 Personal Travel Counsellors will be onboard Freedom of the Seas this weekend, experiencing first hand the facilities this groundbreaking new ship has to offer.

David Speakman, Chairman of Travel Counsellors PLC said: "We are delighted that so many of our Counsellors are onboard this weekend – it will give them invaluable first-hand knowledge that they will be able to pass on to their customers. We have an excellent relationship with Royal Caribbean and we are delighted to be here in such numbers to celebrate, with them, the launch of Freedom of the Seas."

Jo Rzymowska, Sales and Marketing Director – UK and Ireland, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines added: "Royal Caribbean International is extremely excited to have so many UK and Ireland travel agents and industry personnel, including over 330 representatives from Travel Counsellors, here with us in Southampton to celebrate the UK debut of Freedom of the Seas."

"As the most innovative and largest cruise ship in the world, Freedom of the Seas will allow agents to experience first-hand how Royal Caribbean International is breaking boundaries within the cruise industry."

Travel Counsellors is one of the biggest selling cruise agencies in the UK. In the last financial year (Nov 1 2004-Oct 31 2005) Travel Counsellors booked cruises worth over £20.5million – representing 15% of its total sales and the company expects that cruise sales will total over £25million for the financial year ended Oct 31 2006.

Meanwhile over 550 Travel Counsellors will also receive first hand experience of another Royal Caribbean ship – Voyager of the Seas – in November. The company's annual conference is taking place onboard Voyager from November 11-14 in what will be one of the year's biggest travel industry events.

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EDITOR'S NOTES: Travel Counsellors PLC is one of the UK's largest independent travel companies with turnover at the end of its last financial year (Oct 31 2005) of £150 million, a 17% increase year on year. Founded by chairman David Speakman in 1994 it currently has over 588 travel consultants in the UK and Ireland who work from home with the support of over 110 staff at the company's head office in Bolton, Greater Manchester. During 2005 the company expanded into Southern Ireland where it now has 19 consultants and the Netherlands, where it has seven consultants to date. Travel Counsellors places all customer money in a Trust account, administered by the Barclays Bank Trust Company, which guarantees a 100% refund in the event that a supplier collapses. Travel Counsellors was the winner of the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise in 2003 and the winner of the technology in business category of the 2005 CBI Growing Business Awards.

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