



# PORTLAND MARKET REPORT

FESTIVE  
SPECIAL

A SPECIAL FESTIVE EDITION MONTHLY REPORT OFFERS A GLIMPSE INTO THE DIARY OF MRS CLAUS, DECEMBER 2021

**1st December;** Busy season starts badly. Resignation letter from Dasher. Offered £10,000 “Golden Handshake” from rival reindeer delivery company. No questions asked on experience apparently. Won’t give HR reference if asked. Was happy when Blitzen followed his long-held dream of becoming DJ, but not giving references for reindeer who want to do sleigh-work elsewhere.

**2nd December;** Spent day getting to grips with staffing problems. With Dasher and Blitzen gone, plus the ongoing investigations into Cupid’s inappropriate behaviour with other reindeer (#RETOO), we could be 3 down this Christmas.

**4th December;** Voicemail from Greta Thunberg. Accuses North Pole Inc. of the usual “blah, blah, blah” on climate change. Remind Mr Claus that this all stems from the present mix-up back in 2011. Greta got Prince Abdullah Junior’s Mini-Ducati (with stabilisers), whilst the young Prince got the hemp building kit. Massive consequences on both sides.

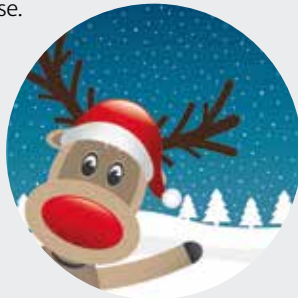
**5th December;** Call from Cousin Krampus down South. Even grumpier than usual. Seriously worried about outcome from COP26 and the agreed “phase-down” of coal. Apparently, his online delivery service (Kramazon Inc.) has massive carbon footprint, because of all the coal / cinders he delivers to all the naughty girls and boys. Give me a break. Must be so tough delivering one product only, without any meaningful competition and with zero-rated Antarctica Corporation Tax. Slammed phone down. Angry.

**7th December;** Good news from British Government. Green light given for foreign sleigh drivers (including reindeer) to deliver throughout December. Will allow us to fill the 2-3 vacant reindeer positions. Will probably go Polish. Good workers – solid reputation. Plus, most of them already members of the RHA (Reindeer Haulage Association). Slightly worried how the likes of Jaroslaw and Wojciech will scan in the “Night Before Christmas” poem though.

**9th December;** Really up against it. Product shortages beginning to bite and Present Prackers showing unusual discipline and refusing to increase output. Elves now rationed to only 3 slivers of sellotape per toy. Easy enough on boxed goods, but very tricky on bikes and balls.

**10th December;** Update from shipping agents. Still no progress on Ever Given / Suez Canal lost containers. 600,000 virtual reality headsets and 1.5m fidget spinners still unaccounted for – somewhere in the Indian Ocean. Compounding present shortage situation. Might have to pass this one to Krampus.

**11th December;** More bad news. Court proceedings taken up against North Pole Inc. by Eco-Vego-Yogo campaigners. Case will go ahead in the new year. Accusation is that young children were forced to unknowingly increase their carbon footprint over the last 1,000 years via Christmas present delivery. New child opt-in clause will be required going forward. 2bn children on earth, so big admin job and GDPR nightmare. Told Santa. Full-on “gammon” response.



**12th December;** Increasingly worried about Rudolph’s attitude. Very distracted by social media profile. Surely there are only so many red nose selfies that a reindeer can take? Other reindeers are also beginning to laugh at him, call him names and not let him join in any reindeer games. Worrying and bad for sleigh morale.

**13th December;** Running low on heating oil for the boiler. Rang around a few local suppliers. WTF (What the Fuel)?! Unbelievable prices. Migraine.

**16th December;** Struggling tbh. Turned out to be a 2-day migraine. Santa had to see in fuel delivery. Asked driver (Gaz Oil) if there were any green alternatives for the boiler. Company CEO (Keir O’Sean) rang back and suggested HVO (Hydrocombobulated Vegemite Oil). Very popular in Australia, but even more expensive apparently.

**17th Dec;** Present shortage now alleviated. Intervention from OPEC (Organisation for Present Exporting Countries).

**18th December;** Email from HMRC (Her Majesty’s Revenue for Christmas). Confirms that duty on red wrapping paper will be quintupling in the new year. Big impact on members of UKIFDA (United Kingdom & Ireland Festive Decoration Association). Chief Elf Ken Groanin absolutely raging. Says DECC (Department of Eating Christmas Cake) won’t be able to enforce this one without affecting the CSO (Christmas Stocking Obligation).

**19th December;** Letter reading department has returned correspondence from a de Pfeffel Johnson (aged 57½) at 10 Downing Street in London. Lots of crossings out and smudges. Letter checkers have also written in red marker at top “not clear what this child wants”. Yours truly reads through indecipherable writing 4 or 5 times. Lots of long-words, Latin quotes and a pencil sketch of Wonder Woman. But, sure enough, no actual requests for presents. Very absent minded and not a problem we often deal with. Will send letter back.

**20th December;** Another call from Krampus. Wants to diversify away from cinders and has offered to take over delivery of cheap plastic toys that break by 11am on Christmas morning. Not a bad suggestion actually. Has always been a PR nightmare for us and is much more aligned with Krampus’ values.

**21st December;** Flyer through from Club Dazzle in Weston-super-Mare. Blitzen now resident DJ for the Christmas Party season – spinning the desks as “DJ Flash”. Good luck to him. Always liked him. Professional.

**23rd December;** Things beginning to come together now. Complete and intense focus from Santa. Totally different to how the media present him.

**25th December;** Job done. Another triumph. Honestly don’t know how we do it year after year. Santa watching the Bond film. I’m going to treat myself to a big bottle of Buckfast. Happy Christmas one and all!

For more pricing  
information,  
see page 26

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