



Edward Mountain MSP
Convenor
Net Zero, Energy & Transport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Our ref: S1/2/22

7th February 2023

Dear Mr Mountain

Inquiry into a Modern and Sustainable Ferry Service for Scotland

I am writing in response to the request submitted to the RMT during the evidence session with Regional Organiser Gordon Martin on 15th November 2022, concerning consultation with the trade unions over Hull 801 and Hull 802 at the design stage.

We have checked our records and can confirm that the RMT was not consulted at the design stage for either vessel. We received updates on progress from CMAL and CalMac but with no opportunity to engage on the detail of the proposed vessel designs or on any other aspect of these contracts.

In our view, this merely underlines the RMT's position that the Scottish ferry workforce, including CalMac, NorthLink and Orkney Ferries, and their trade unions are treated as an afterthought by CMAL and by Transport Scotland. This is extremely important for Committee members to bear in mind during the current and any future inquiries into the Scottish Government's plans for the Clyde and Hebrides and other publicly contracted ferry routes.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Michael Lynch
General Secretary