



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Jenny Gilruth MSP
Minister for Transport

By email only

**Net Zero, Energy and Transport
Committee**

c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

netzero.committee@parliament.scot

1 March 2023

Dear Jenny,

INQUIRY INTO A MODERN AND SUSTAINABLE FERRY SERVICE FOR SCOTLAND

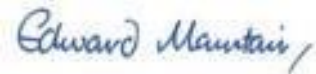
I am writing to thank you and officials from Transport Scotland for attending yesterday's meeting of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee to give evidence as part of the Committee's inquiry into a Modern and Sustainable Ferry Service for Scotland. During the meeting, you'd offered to provide additional evidence in writing to the Committee—

- Details of the timescales for the development of the Island Connectivity Plan including—
 - When consultations on each element will take place;
 - When the resulting Plans will be published and implemented; and
 - The timescales for the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service Contract tender process and how the various elements of the Islands Connectivity Plan will contribute to the tender process.
- The Committee asked whether the Scottish Government is free to redesign the delivery framework for ferry services now the UK has left the European Union. You offered to provide confirmation of the context in which decisions on future governance structures will be taken.
- Examples of where changes have been made to ferry operation contracts, including the time between a proposal to change the service stipulated in the contract and the practical application of the change—
 - Timetable changes;
 - Route changes;
 - New routes.
- Whether there are other examples of the Scottish Government, or Scottish Government owned companies, using subsidiary companies based offshore to pay employees for the purpose of avoiding paying National Insurance; and

- CMAL were asked about the Cemre Marin Endustri A.S contracts for building ferries to serve Islay and routes between Uig, Lochmaddy, and Tarbert (Harris) and whether this included a clause to stipulate Scottish, UK and European firms should form part of the supply chain where possible. Having been told it did not, the Committee asked which organisation would have the ability to include such a clause and was told this was CMAL. The Committee sought your view and you undertook to confirm this was the case.

On behalf of the Committee, I request a response by 29 March 2023 and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward Mountain".

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee