

Edward Mountain
Convenor
Net Zero, Energy & Transport Committee
Scottish Parliament
EH99 1SO

30 June 2025

Dear Mr Mountain,

Update on New Vessels for Islay & Little Minch. MV Isle of Islay (NB1092), MV Loch Indaal (NB1093), MV Lochmor (NB1100) and MV Claymore (NB1101)

In our 31 March 2025 update to the Committee, we advised that we anticipated delivery of the MV Isle of Islay in Q3 2025 and with regard to MV Loch Indaal, MV Lochmor and MV Claymore these vessels to follow a delivery schedule of six-month intervals from the delivery of MV Isle of Islay. We are working collaboratively with Cemre to reduce the delivery intervals in order that all four vessels can be delivered at the earliest opportunity. We have a permanent site team in Türkiye and in addition our senior CMAL staff have been on site for 120 days thus far in 2025, all parties continue to work very hard and collaboratively to deliver the vessels.

The dates advised in our previous update 31 March 2025 are unchanged. We anticipate that if the shipbuilding activities (commissioning, second sea trials, compartment completion, certification, Classification Society and MCA surveys) go smoothly that MV Isle of Islay can be completed by the Shipyard end Q3 2025. The second sea trials are critical to achieving delivery and will confirm (or not) that all system are fully functioning and are integrated. We will advise the Committee in an interim letter after these trials are completed at it will give a much clearer picture regarding the actual delivery date.

MV Isle of Islay

The first set of sea trials for MV Isle of Islay have been completed. The trials took place from Thursday 22 May to Friday 30 May 2025, in the Sea of Marmara, with staff from CMAL and CalMac in attendance. The first part of this set of sea trials saw the set-up of the propulsion systems, generators, thrusters, stabilisers and associated electrical systems. These were then tested, trialled and measured with Lloyd's Register and the Marine Coastguard Agency (MCA) in attendance.

Testing during the first sea trials evaluated the vessel's performance at full load, including speed, stability, manoeuvrability, anchor deployment/recovery and endurance. The vessel achieved the specified speed requirements. The trials also established the effectiveness of the vessel's propulsion plant, automation and navigational systems. The second set of sea trials

will take place later this summer (date to be advised), following the installation of the vessel's battery system and harbour acceptance trials of the battery hybrid system and all ship systems being fully set up. We anticipate that if the shipbuilding activities go smoothly that MV Isle of Islay can be completed by the Shipyard end Q3 2025.

MV Loch Indaal

MV Loch Indaal is berthed at the quay at the shipyard. General outfit work is ongoing throughout the vessel.

Cable installation is ongoing throughout the vessel.

Pipework is progressing, with installation surveys being carried out.

Accommodation areas at the early stages of outfitting.

Work on the manufacture and installation of the RoRo equipment is progressing.

NB1100 (MV Lochmor)

NB1100 is on the slipway at the shipyard, the main hull structure is complete. Outfit outwork is ongoing, installation of equipment, cables, pipework, ventilation and insulation is ongoing throughout the vessel.

NB 1101 (MV Claymore)

NB1101 is on the slipway at the shipyard, the main hull structure is complete. Outfit outwork is ongoing, installation of equipment, cables, pipework, ventilation and insulation is progressing throughout the vessel.

Port Enabling Works

Civil engineering works at all three locations are substantially complete, including remedial works at Colonsay, which were completed earlier this month with no disruption to the ferry service with full demobilisation by Wednesday 25 June.

Mooring aid winches have been installed at Port Askaig and connected to the interim power supply. Full commissioning, testing & operator training will be undertaken during MV Isle of Islay familiarisation trials.

Design of the shore power systems for both Pt Askaig and Kennacraig is ongoing. Electricity network upgrades to both sites are dependent on wider network reinforcements not anticipated until June 2026; shore power infrastructure is scheduled to be installed at both sites ahead of this.



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Overall

The overall costs of delivering the four vessels, including CMAL and CalMac costs, remain on track, including risk allowance of around 3%, advised in our 19 December 2024 update.

Whilst MV Lochmor and MV Claymore remain on the slipway and are yet to be launched the work being carried out is not causing any concern or delay as the slipways can carry the weight of a fully completed vessel. The shipyard is reviewing their plans for the launch date for 1100 (MV Lochmor) and the MV Claymore (NB1101) will follow later in the year once the first vessel is underway to Scotland.

We continue to work closely with Transport Scotland and CalMac to consider the service implications of the extended delivery dates and plan accordingly for revised entry in to service dates. As previously advised, we do not envisage the delivery of the MV Isle of Islay and future vessels having a significant impact on the deployment and cascade plan.

Photographs

Isle of Islay (NB 1092)

Isle of Islay Sea Trials



Isle of Islay at Quayside



Isle of Islay (NB1092)

Isle of Islay – Hull Painting Underway



Isle of Islay – Passenger Lounge



Loch Indaal (NB 1093)

Isle of Islay and Loch Indaal at Quayside



Loch Indaal at Quayside



Loch Indaal (NB 1093)

Loch Indaal (Lochmor and Claymore in Background)



Wheelhouse



NB 1100 (Lochmor)

Lochmor - Propulsors



Lochmor - On the Slipway

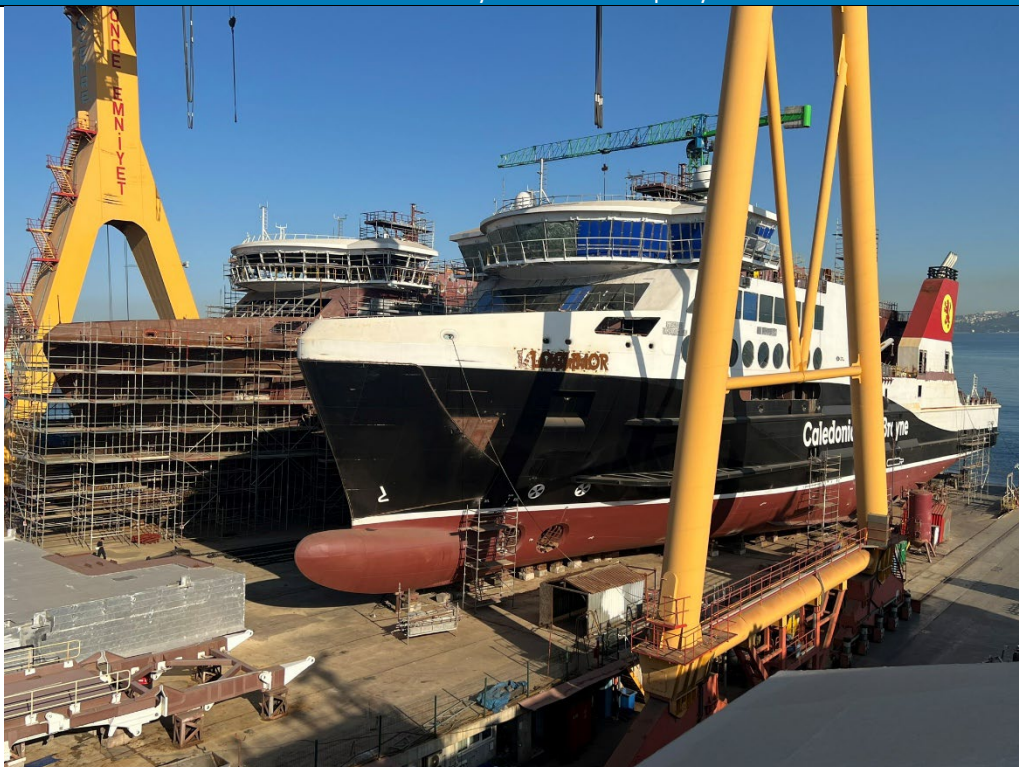


NB 1100 (Lochmor)/NB 1101 (Claymore)

Lochmor & Claymore on the Slipway



Lochmor & Claymore on the Slipway



Port Enabling Works

Port Askaig



Port Askaig





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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KHobbs', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Kevin Hobbs
Chief Executive Officer

for and on behalf of
Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited