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04 June 2025

Dear Convener,

**Net Zero, Energy and Transport (NZET) Committee: NIFS Freight Vessels Replacement**

I am writing to you to highlight my response to parliamentary question [S6W-38378](#) regarding the business case work on the Northern Isles Ferry Service freight vessels replacement and start of the procurement process.

I expect further announcements regarding the progress of this procurement over the coming months as CMAL complete the various stages prior to vessels contracts being awarded in early 2026, subject to completion of relevant processes and approval of the Final Business Case.

I trust this information is helpful for the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

**FIONA HYSLOP**  
**Cabinet Secretary for Transport**