

New vessels for the Clyde and Hebrides

Written submission, by email from George McGregor, former procurement manager, Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited, 7 November 2022

I have information that will show that the board of CMAL, Transport Scotland the Scottish Government knew that FMEL would not provide the BRG in Jan/Feb 2015, I had concerns that what they were doing was against every principle of EU procurement law. The answer I got from CMAL senior management was don't worry it has been approved at the top of the Scottish Government (SG) that everything is okay, I told CMAL senior management that it was not okay, and I did put that in writing to them. I raised concerns about the way that in my view, FMEL was getting preferential treatment against what the other bidders were in the regions of at least 10 times. I raised many times about the lack of financial security regarding FMEL I also reject what the current CEO of CMAL said to your committee regarding the meetings that had been held at FMEL, I told them that they had to treat each of the bidders with the same equal treatment. Again this appeared to be ignored because I got told that the top of the SG had decided that ??????.

I also warned against the practice of buying all the parts on FMEL's behalf to save FMEL's cash flow this significant decision was a major change to the Tender advert and should have been offered to all the bidders but it wasn't. This whole sorry saga is going to cost the Scottish Taxpayer Millions more than it should when we get sued under the remedies directive

If the committee will not hear what I have to say then I will have no option but to go to the press with the information I have.