



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon  
First Minister of Scotland

**Public Audit Committee**  
Room T3.60  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
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By email only

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9 November 2022

Dear First Minister,

**New vessels for the Clyde and Hebrides: Arrangements to deliver vessels 801 and 802**

Thank you for giving evidence to the Public Audit Committee at our meeting on 4 November 2022 to help inform its scrutiny of the Auditor General for Scotland's (AGS) report, [New vessels for the Clyde and Hebrides: Arrangements to deliver vessels 801 and 802](#).

At this [meeting](#), you gave a commitment to provide the Committee with a number of specific documents referred to during the oral evidence session, subject to this material being assessed for legal privilege and/or commercial confidentiality.

The Committee would therefore ask that copies of the following information is made available—

- The briefing prepared for you by Scottish Government officials in advance of the preferred bidder announcement on 31 August 2015, as referred to at Column 11 of the Official Report;
- All e mail exchanges and any other items of correspondence regarding the 31 August preferred bidder announcement (including the proposal set out by

special advisers and communications officials recommending that you make the announcement, as referred to at Column 10 of the Official Report)<sup>1</sup>;

- The lessons that have been learned, and the actions that have been taken by the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland, to avoid the issues highlighted in the AGS' report occurring in the future<sup>2</sup>;
- The minute or notes taken of the meeting held with the former director of the former organisation FMEL, Jim McColl on 31 May 2017<sup>3</sup>;
- Details of all occasions when the Cabinet discussed decisions taken by the Scottish Government in relation to the Ferguson Marine shipyard. For example, the preferred bidder announcement, the Voted Loan letter issued by Transport Scotland to Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited, the two Scottish Government loans worth a total of £45 million and the nationalisation of the shipyard<sup>4</sup>. As part of the response, all Cabinet papers and minutes connected to issues arising at Ferguson Marine Engineering Limited are requested;
- All e mail exchanges and any other items of correspondence regarding the launch of vessel 801 in November 2017 as referred to at Column 41 of the Official Report;
- The briefing prepared for you by Scottish Government officials in advance of the launch of vessel 801 in November 2017, as referred to at Column 41 of the Official Report;
- The cost to date to complete vessels 801 and 802, including the former turnaround director's salary and the cost of nationalisation<sup>5</sup>.

If there is any further written information that on reflection, you consider would be helpful to the Committee's considerations, we would be grateful if this information is also shared with us.

The Committee welcomes a response by **30 November 2022**. Should this date present any difficulties, please contact the clerks as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Leonard MSP,  
Convener**

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<sup>1</sup> Public Audit Committee, 4 November 2022, Column 17

<sup>2</sup> Public Audit Committee, 4 November 2022, Column 17

<sup>3</sup> Public Audit Committee, 4 November 2022, Column 25

<sup>4</sup> Public Audit Committee, 4 November 2022, Column 29

<sup>5</sup> Public Audit Committee, 4 November 2022, Column 42