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Richard Leonard MSP
Convener
Public Audit Committee
By Email: publicaudit.committee@Parliament.Scot

27 November 2023

Dear Convener

New Vessels for the Clyde and Hebrides: Arrangements to Deliver Vessels 801 and 802

I refer to your letter dated 2 November seeking further information following my letter to you following my appearance at the Committee on 21 September.

In that appearance I noted that there were areas under consideration that were beyond a transport focus, including around publication of processes and involvement in private companies. A number of the additional areas you highlighted in the correspondence above also fall into that category. On that basis it would be more appropriate for that response to be led by Niel Gray MSP in his role as Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work & Energy along with the specific information you requested in your recent letter to him on this subject. I understand that a response will issue to the Committee shortly.

The one area where you had requested further confirmation falling within my remit as Minister for Transport was in relation to the timescales for updating the Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) Framework Agreement to include details on procedures for seeking or issuing of a Shareholder Authorisation.

Our current estimate for the completion of the revised Framework Document, including this work, is summer 2024 and this will be completed after the conclusion of the due diligence required for around the direct award of the next Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service contract (to allow any potential amendments needed in the CMAL Framework that may need to reflect any new arrangements around Direct Award)/

I would be happy to write to the committee once this work is completed.

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I hope that this is helpful and please let me know if the committee needs anything further to conclude its consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely

FIONA HYSLOP

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