



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Michael Matheson MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero,
Energy and Transport

By email only

**Net Zero, Energy and Transport
Committee**

c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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23 March 2022

Dear Michael,

P&O Ferries

The Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee is extremely concerned by P&O's 17th March announcement that it was sacking around 800 staff, with immediate effect, and that services, including the Cairnryan-Larne line have been suspended, ruining passengers' travel plans.

Following on from earlier communications, I am writing first to confirm that the Committee would welcome an urgent update so that we may reflect on our immediate scrutiny in relation to this matter.

In particular, the Committee would welcome:

- Your reaction to the 17 March announcement;
- Clarification as to whether the Scottish Government had had any prior intimation of P&O's 17 March announcement;
- What communications, if any, you have had since with P&O
- Your view on where this announcement leaves the Cairnryan -Larne route in both the immediate and longer term;
- Any other information that you consider may assist the Committee in its understanding of this matter.

It would be helpful to have this response by 3pm tomorrow (Thursday).

Yours sincerely,

Dean Lockhart MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee