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Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

By email: netzero.committee@parliament.scot

30 October 2023

Dear Convener

Announcement of Extension of Ferry Concessions to Under 22s

I am writing to inform the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee that on 28 October the Scottish Government announced an extension of the existing National Ferry Concessionary Travel Scheme to all island residents under the age of 22.

Currently, young people aged 16-18 years old, and eligible full time volunteers up to age 26, who are resident on a Scottish island receive 4 free single (two return) journeys to the mainland each year.

The announcement confirmed that the Scottish Government intends to pursue the policy of extending the 4 free journeys per year to all island residents under 22 years of age.

Transport Scotland will now carry out the necessary further work with ferry operators and partners to confirm timescales for implementation. Further details will be made available in due course.

Decisions on all spending for 2024-25 and future years are also, of course, subject to the outcome of the Scottish Budget process and associated approval by the Scottish Parliament. The Scottish Government will also continue to engage with the Scottish Parliament as policy proposals develop.

Yours sincerely

FIONA HYSLOP

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