



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Angus Campbell
Chair
Ferries Communities Board
By email only

**Net Zero, Energy and Transport
Committee**
c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

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16 May 2024

Dear Angus,

Third Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services Contract

The Committee's 2023 report on a Modern and Sustainable Ferry Service for Scotland, explored the award of the next contract for the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service (CHFS). We recommended—

“The Committee believes that, if island communities appear to support making a direct award, and there is no legal barrier to it, then this should go ahead for the CHFS3 contract only.”

It has since been shown through the publication of your [report as the Chair of the Ferries Community Board](#) that island communities do not appear to support an uncontested direct award to Calmac. Your report says that the “operator function...should continue to go out to tender to test the market for best value and encourage innovation and best practice”.

The Committee asked the Cabinet Secretary in [September 2023](#) when a decision, and subsequent announcement, would be made on how the next contract will be awarded, and if an extension to the current contract would be required in the meantime. We [wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport on 8 May](#) to ask—

- Whether the current contract, awarded to CalMac, will be extended?
- How the Scottish Government intends to award the next contract for delivery of Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services.

The Committee is due to hear from the Cabinet Secretary on 4 June 2024. I am writing to ask whether you have any updates on the position of ferry dependent communities and to the recommendations in your report.

On behalf of the Committee, I seek a response by **30 May 2024**.

Edward Mountain

Edward Mountain MSP

Convener

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee