

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Convenor Edward Mountain
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
netzero.committee@parliament.scot

Convenor Richard Leonard
Public Audit Committee
Publicaudit.committee@parliament.scot

26 February 2024

Dear Edward and Richard,

You will be aware that the CEO of Ferguson Marine Port Glasgow (FMPG) has now provided the NZET Committee with updated costs and delivery dates for Glen Sannox (801) and Glen Rosa (802).

These cost increases and delays to delivery dates are extremely disappointing and I share the frustrations that will be keenly felt across the Scottish Parliament and, of course, by the island communities who rely so much on ferry services. The former Cabinet Secretary, Neil Gray, had impressed upon the CEO that further delays and cost increases would be inexcusable and profoundly frustrating, and I fully support that sentiment. I will therefore be seeking an urgent conversation with the Chair to agree next steps and set out my very clear expectations around the future governance of these programmes.

The new forecasts will be subject to due diligence to ensure that they are robust and accurate, and I look forward to updating the Scottish Parliament on this, and my engagement with FMPG, as part of my planned statement on Tuesday 5th March.

Scottish Government remains totally committed to the provision of high quality ferry services to our island communities and will continue to work closely with Ferguson Marine and its delivery partners to do everything possible to deliver these two, vitally needed vessels.

I hope you find this helpful.

MÀIRI MCALLAN

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

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