



Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd
Municipal Buildings
Fore St
Port Glasgow PA14 5EQ
Tel: [REDACTED]

14 February 2024

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

By email only

Dear Mr Mountain

I refer to your letter dated 10th January 2024 regarding "Ferry Build Programme".

You were seeking details regarding MV Glen Sannox and MV Glen Rosa in respect of the non-compliant stairways which emerged in 2023.

We became aware of issues regarding stairway non-compliance in communication from FMPG on 15th June 2023. The shipyard had been in discussions with the MCA as the Flag state authority to seek an exemption regarding evacuation of the passenger and crew areas of the vessel as there were anomalies in the number of evacuation stairways in the passenger areas and also a number of doorways within the crew area were considered by MCA to be too narrow. It was in June 2023 that CMAL learned that MCA were unwilling to grant an exemption.

As you are aware CMAL has a Contract with Scottish Government to provide Consultancy Services which comprises of experienced personnel who are based at FMPG to oversee quality matters throughout the build process. Our embedded site supervision team at FMPG and the vessels team at our offices in Port Glasgow discussed in detail the options to remedy the non-compliance of the evacuation of the passenger and crew areas. The two options discussed were to install additional stairways in the passenger areas; or to install additional Marine Evacuation Systems; the latter being discounted due to the long lead times on such equipment.

It was the opinion of CMAL that the installation of the additional stairwells and adjustments to the width of the crew doorways could be carried out in parallel with other workstreams and this would not materially delay the delivery – in other words it was not on the critical path.

The final decision regarding how to achieve compliance and the costs associated with the purchase of materials, fabrication and installation lies with FMPG but we understand that all the changes were circa £1m.

We do not know when the issues that emerged were discussed between FMPG and Scottish Government colleagues. At that time CMAL has an obligation to report monthly to SG Economy colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Hobbs
Chief Executive



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