



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon  
First Minister of Scotland

**Public Audit Committee**  
Room T3.60  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

By email only

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9 December 2022

Dear First Minister,

**New vessels for the Clyde and Hebrides: Arrangements to deliver vessels 801 and 802**

Thank you for your recent correspondence to the Public Audit Committee, providing a range of documents we requested following your appearance before the Committee on 4 November 2022 in relation to the abovementioned report.

We considered this information at our meeting on 8 December and agreed it would be helpful to seek further information and clarification to assist the Committee in its scrutiny as follows—

- the date on which the Ministerial Engagement Briefing for the preferred bidder announcement on 31 August 2015 was issued to you
- how and when the former Minister for Transport and Islands signed off the quotes attributed to him in the news release for the preferred bidder announcement, given he indicated he was on annual leave at this time. All correspondence relating to the clearance process for this news release is also sought
- confirmation as to whether a minute or note of the meeting with the former director of the former organisation Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd (FMEL)

on 31 May 2017 exists and whether any other material relating to what was discussed at this meeting is available. If so, please provide a copy of this information to the Committee.

The Committee also asks for a copy of the response to Transport Scotland's submission of 20 August 2015, which recommended that the Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities approve the award of two shipbuilding contracts by CMAL to FMEL.

The Committee hopes that the majority of the information requested is relatively straightforward in nature. We would therefore welcome any information you are able to provide to us **before Parliament goes into recess on 23 December**. Should this date present any difficulties, please contact the clerks as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Leonard MSP,  
Convener**