

Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy  
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Eaconamaidh do Mhath  
Dhaoine, Obair Chothromach is Cumhachd  
Neil Gray MSP  
Niall Gray BPA



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)

Richard Leonard  
Convenor  
Public Audit Committee  
[publicaudit.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:publicaudit.committee@parliament.scot)

Edward Mountain  
Convenor  
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee  
[netzero.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:netzero.committee@parliament.scot)

29 September 2023

Dear Convenors,

You will be aware that the CEO of Ferguson Marine has now provided his quarterly update to the Net Zero and Transport and Energy Committee on progress with MV Glen Sannox and MV Glen Rosa. In his letter, dated 29 September 2023, he sets out increases in the estimated total cost to the vessels and further delays to the handover of 801; noting that this could also impact on the handover date of 802.

This confirmation of further cost and delay is again extremely disappointing. My officials meet weekly with the senior management of FMPG and we continue to impress upon them the need to do everything possible to minimise costs and ensure that MV Glen Sannox is available to enter service this summer. In all of our engagement with FMPG, we make clear the vital importance of delivering two high quality vessels to our island communities and our commitment to supporting the yard to bring them into service.

As a result of this update, officials are preparing to undertake due diligence drawing upon the value for money assessment completed earlier this year. I will provide both committees with further information on this when the assessment is complete.

I remain fully committed to both ensuring that these ferries are able to enter service as soon as possible and ensuring a long term, sustainable future for the yard.

Yours sincerely,

**NEIL GRAY**

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

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