

Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work
and Energy
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Eaconamaidh do Mhath
Dhaoine, Obair Chothromach is Cumhachd
Neil Gray MSP
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2 February 2024

Dear Edward and Richard,

You will be aware that the CEO of Ferguson Marine has provided an update on the delivery of MV Glen Sannox and Hull 802.

This update gave more detail on the challenges associated with the installation of LNG pipework and reported that, as a result, the handover date for Glen Sannox has slipped to at least the end of May 2024. Additionally, the CEO indicated that work is taking place to re-forecast the costs of delivering both vessels and undertook to update the NZET Committee prior to 23rd February 2024. As I set out previously, my officials will carry out due diligence on any re-forecasted costs and I will provide the Committee with their conclusions as soon as possible thereafter.

These are, once again, concerning developments, and I am extremely disappointed by this update. Whilst I accept that the upcoming sea trials are designed to identify issues that need to be addressed before the vessel enters into service, I have impressed upon the CEO the need to control costs wherever possible, and in addition, spoken to the Chairman to ensure he is aware of the requirement for accurate forecasting.

Once again, I reaffirm my commitment to supporting FMPG to deliver these lifeline ferries so that we can enhance the services provided to our island communities.

Yours sincerely,

NEIL GRAY

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