



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Fiona Hyslop MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Transport  
Scottish Government

**Public Audit Committee**  
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13 June 2024

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

As you will recall, the Committee wrote to you in [November 2023](#) in your capacity as Minister for Transport, regarding its report, [New Vessels for the Clyde and Hebrides: Arrangements to Deliver Vessels 801 and 802](#).

In this correspondence, the Committee re-asserted its position, as set out in its report, that it considers there to be equivalence between occasions of Written Authority and where the board of a company wholly owned by Scottish Ministers consider it necessary to seek and receive Shareholder Authorisation. It further stated that occasions of Shareholder Authorisation should be a matter of public record.

The correspondence also drew your attention to the report conclusion that there was scope for Transport Scotland and Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) to work together to clarify in writing the procedure for seeking reassurances from Scottish Ministers, including how and when either Written Authority or Shareholder Authorisation should be sought.

The Scottish Government's response to the Committee's report in May 2023 "welcomed the suggestion on clarifying the procedures" and that it would look to incorporate changes in the next revision of the Framework Agreement with CMAL. In your correspondence of 27 November 2023, you stated that the estimated timeline for completing the Framework would be summer 2024.

**The Committee requests an update on the status of the revised Framework Agreement with CMAL, including the expected publication date and whether it will include clarification of how Shareholder Authorisation should be sought.**

You may wish to note that the Committee has also written to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic Deputy to seek a final decision on whether the Scottish Government accepts the broad principle of publishing Shareholder Authorisations.

The Committee requests a response by **25 July 2024**.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Leonard MSP**  
**Convener**