

Aviation, Maritime, Freight & Canals

Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF
T: 0141-272 7145
alison.wills@transport.gov.scot



CÒMHDHAIL ALBA

Councillor Alan Reid
Chairman
Cowal Transport Forum
136 Fairhaven
Dunoon
PA23 8NS
Argyll and Bute Council
By email: alan.reid@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Our ref:
2019/0029006

Date:
28 October 2019

Dear Councillor Reid

Thank you for your email of 29 September 2019 to Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Minister for Energy Connectivity and the Islands, regarding the Gourock to Dunoon ferry service. As a member of the Ferries Unit in Transport Scotland, I have been asked to respond.

With regard to fares, I refer to the point made by Chris Wilcock, in his letter to you of 23 July 2019, that Mr Wheelhouse has committed to further consideration of future fares and costs, risks and opportunities of fares reductions on the Gourock – Dunoon ferry service are being considered; we will keep the Forum informed. For you information, CalMac have informed us that books of ten tickets are available through local retail outlets (“bucket shop tickets”) which represent a significant saving on the advertised fares and already permit regular travellers to sail at rates below the RET formula.

As you are aware from previous correspondence with the Minister, officials have been undertaking discussions on future vessel and shoreside options with CalMac, CMAL and Argyll and Bute Council. This work is currently ongoing and we have started the Gourock Harbour project, which is in its early stages of development. The project will be led by a Steering Group which is next due to meet on 30 October 2019.

More information on the project will be provided as it progresses and my colleague Susan Malcolm, Head of Ferries Infrastructure, has informed the Forum that TS officials would be willing meet in the new year.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Alison Wills

Alison Wills
Ferries Policy Officer