

From: Russell MW (Michael), MSP
Sent: 18 March 2020 11:21
To: Good, Bobby
Subject: RE: DUNOON TO GOUROCK FERRY SERVICE

Dear Bobby

Thank you for this.

I have been in touch with the Minister to make my view known and I have met with senior officials in Transport Scotland. I have also, as you indicate, made it clear publicly that I believe a shorter timescale is not only achievable, but very much required.

The urgent need is to secure improvements in the passenger service. Cal mac has worked on that and more can be done, but the step change will come with new vessels. Campaigns for other objectives and especially the re-introduction of a vehicle service are a distraction and indeed the approach that has been taken on occasion by some has been, in my view regrettably and no doubt unintentionally, counter productive.

I am glad the Council has indicated to the Minister that it understands and supports the need for the procurement process to be expedited. If in addition the Council was now to express its unequivocal backing for the passenger only service from town centre to town centre and explicitly rule out other options that would add considerable weight to the argument.

I am copying this to the Minister and to the CEO of Transport Scotland as an indication of the strong local feeling and the hope that what is being sought can be achieved.

Yours aye

Michael

From: Good, Bobby
Sent: 16 March 2020 09:10
To: Russell MW (Michael), MSP
Subject: DUNOON TO GOUROCK FERRY SERVICE

Dear Michael,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Bute and Cowal Area Committee following our meeting held on Tuesday 3 March 2020 . At the meeting Members considered a report which provided some background detail relating to the Dunoon to Gourock ferry service.

The Members wished me, in my position as Area Committee Chair, to welcome your comments on the completely unacceptable timetable for the procurement of new vessels for the Dunoon-Gourock service and to share our own frustration.

I would be grateful if you could advise the Area Committee what efforts you are making to expedite the procurement process and what the response has been to your efforts by the Scottish Government.

The Area Committee has also asked that I contact the Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands drawing his attention to the damage that this long delay has caused to the Cowal economy and reinforcing the need for the procurement process to be expedited.

I, and the Area Committee, very much look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards

Cllr Bobby Good
Bute & Cowal Area Chair.