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Councillor Bobby Good

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Our ref: 2020/0001521  
13 July 2020

Dear Bobby,

Thank you for your email of 17 March 2020 regarding the Gourock to Dunoon ferry service.

The Scottish government is absolutely committed to the Gourock to Dunoon ferry service as demonstrated by our major investment which includes a port masterplan to redevelop Gourock, including a replacement linkspan, two new passenger only vessels and associated harbour infrastructure adjustments at Dunoon, as well as consideration of the introduction of an electric vehicle scheme, served by e-vehicles and e-bicycles.

In order to drive the project forward, Transport Scotland has set up a Steering Group which comprises of Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited, CalMac Ferries Ltd, Argyll and Bute Council and Inverclyde Council. There is also a separate Reference Group made up of key local stakeholders as we recognise that it is essential that the local community has a voice and can contribute to the delivery of this project.

The view of the Steering Group is that following the detailed business case process, which ensures sound financial governance is applied and is required at various stages in the project, vessel deployment is unlikely to be achievable on the route before autumn 2024.

Detail in relation to the outline programme will be available shortly. As alluded to, the project programme is subject to our governance processes, funding availability and statutory processes. Regular project updates will be provided at key stages along with public engagement events. In the meantime, we will continue to work with stakeholders and the community to progress this important project.

*Kind regards*

**PAUL WHEELHOUSE**

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