

**From:** Kevin Hobbs  
**Sent:** 25 August 2021 10:54  
**To:** Reid, Alan  
**Subject:** RE: Cyclical Maintenance of Gourock linkspan [OFFICIAL]

Alan

Thank you for your Email dated 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

As I am sure you are aware that we would not take any critical infrastructure out of use unless it was necessary.

We replaced the Gourock linkspan deck and associated port furniture in February 2021. It is standard practice for our engineering experts to carry out checks every 6 months of all of our 26 facilities. This is even more important to us when major works have been carried out.

During a 6 month check at the outset of August 2021 it was noticed that there was some damage to the hydraulic ram rods and this causes weeping of the fluid inside the cylinder. We know from many years of experience that these type of problems get sequentially worse and indeed more costly and time consuming if we do not intervene quickly. Having identified the issue it was decided that it is more effective to deal with this minor issue as opposed to it getting progressively worse. In the extreme the new deck could be severely damaged and out of operation for months if left to deteriorate.

This facility is used for the GDK services and is also the AMP for Bute and Arran. It is our responsibility to make decisions that minimise outage and reduce ultimate costs. For this reason we decided to take it out of operation for 9 days in the late summer as opposed to winter time when services rely on it more heavily.

We realise the inconvenience that this causes but we are trying to avoid further and more complex problems at a later date.

Best Regards,  
Leis gach deagh dhùrachd,

**Kevin Hobbs**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Árd-oifigear**

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited | Stóras Mara Cailleanach Eta

**From:** Reid, Alan  
**Sent:** 24 August 2021 17:56  
**To:** Kevin Hobbs>  
**Subject:** Cyclical Maintenance of Gourock linkspan [OFFICIAL]

**Classification: OFFICIAL**

Dear Kevin,

The Cowal Transport Forum were informed at our meeting last Friday that the Gourock linkspan is to be removed for essential works for 9 days from 25 August.

When the linkspan is out of action, passengers on the Dunoon service, who can't use the steps for any reason, are provided with a taxi to Western Ferries. This is clearly very inconvenient. I also understand that it causes disruption to the Kilcreggan ferry timetable.

The Forum are concerned that the linkspan will be out of action for 9 days so soon after it was installed, also the short notice given.

The Forum asked me to write to you to request publication of your future cyclical maintenance plans, well in advance of any works. I hope you will be able to do this.

Best Regards

Alan

Alan Reid, Chair of Cowal Transport Forum  
Councillor for Cowal ward