

### **Scotrail Response – Gourock train times**

Thank you for the email regarding ferry connections at Gourock for Dunoon.

I agree that the current and ongoing ferry connections at Gourock are not ideal and are a legacy of the Covid Timetable whereby the frequency Gourock services was reduced and the fast services withdrawn. This is in part due to reduced passenger numbers, a change in commuter working practices, a shortage of drivers and overall funding cuts to the railway. Therefore the train service is now currently 2 x slow off peak services per hour calling at all stations with additional fast peak services so some of the previous benefits have been lost.

Ideally we would like to provide a 7 to 10 minute train/ship connection which used to happen with the 4 trains per hour timetable but this is now also made more difficult by trying to incorporate different times on the Glasgow to Paisley corridor which also serves Ayrshire services as well as platforming at Glasgow Central. We also have to give a decent frequency and spread of services to stations such as Bishopton and Port Glasgow. Therefore as the Dunoon ferry and train service are both half hour frequency, the current 20 minute connection is seen as acceptable. ScotRail and Calmac meet at regular intervals to discuss future timetables and these issues are brought up in order to try to give the best connectivity. During the peaks, we do provide good connections into fast trains in both the morning and evening peaks which is when the majority of time critical passengers are travelling. At this time, connecting priority is given to the Rothesay ferry as they are only served by 1 train per hour and a less frequent ferry service and that route is restricted by a single track line.

Looking to the future, ScotRail are actively looking at totally restructuring the Inverclyde lines which would both give a better shipping connection and faster train service but this is currently awaiting future funding acceptance.