BREACHACHA,
ISLE OF COLL,
ARGYLL,

PA78 6TB.

henderson304@btinternet.com

8th July 2013

Dear Mr Murphy,

I am writing to you to enquire about the possibility of the transfer of the existing lease for the public toilets on the Isle of Coll to myself and my husband, Caroline and Innes Henderson, as our understanding is they are to be either closed or demolished.

Innes is a Shellfish Fisherman and has worked from the middle pier on Coll for nearly 30 years. I myself have a 40 year association with Coll as both holidaymaker and resident. When these public toilets were built, many an eyebrow were raised as to the style of them, but they quickly became an indispensable and integral part of island life. Arinagour is a popular destination for yachts, sometimes as many as 40+ vessels in the bay in high season, and the very first place most sailors go to is a flushing loo. The middle pier where these toilets are situated is a working pier for fishing boats as well as other craft, and so is used all year round – fishermen also appreciate this convenience as many a long hour can be spent on the pier mending creels in all weathers.

Outside of these toilets is the only public standpipe in the village. This is an essential utility to many, including ourselves, who have neither mains nor drinking water at their homes. This tap alone is very good reason not to close down these oh so convenient conveniences.

Innes and I have, with the support of the late Lairds estate, applied to buy the middle pier store for the use of our fishing business. Legal issues are currently being disentangled by our lawyer and your legal department. It seems a logical solution, on successful purchase of the building, that we redevelop this essential community service on its current site to make it more appealing to those who use it and the aesthetics of our village.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours Sincerely,

Caroline Henderson.

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	TOM MORENY
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