



T: 0300 244 4000

E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener of the REC
Committee

By email :- rec.committee@parliament.scot

6 February 2020

Dear Convener,

NORTHERN ISLES FERRY SERVICES

Earlier today, I answered a Government Initiated Question (S5W-27316) confirming that CalMac Ferries has withdrawn from its legal action contesting the Scottish Ministers' decision to award the contract for the delivery of the Northern Isles Ferry Services to Serco NorthLink. Additionally, Transport Scotland has completed its engagement with the European Commission in relation to outstanding State aid issues.

Transport Scotland will now move to conclude the award of contract for the delivery of the ferry services to Serco NorthLink Ferries. We currently anticipate that the contract should be awarded by the end of March, allowing a three-month mobilisation period before the new contract takes effect from the end of June.

To ensure continuity of service during this timeline, the current contract has been extended and will run for a period of up to six months from 31 January.

Following the commencement of the new contract, a non-commercially sensitive copy of the contract will be published on Transport Scotland's website.

I would be grateful if you could circulate this letter to members of the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee.

Kind regards

Paul Wheelhouse

