



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee

Inquiry into construction and procurement of ferry vessels in Scotland

Call for Evidence

The Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee invites all interested individuals and organisations to submit written evidence on its inquiry on construction and procurement of ferry vessels in Scotland.

The remit of the inquiry is to identify and address current and future challenges and opportunities in the procurement of new vessels to support Scotland's ferries network.

The Committee will take into account the updated timetable and costs associated with the completion of two new hybrid ferries to serve the Clyde and Hebrides ferries network, set out in the Ferguson Marine Programme Review Board report, which was published by the Scottish Government on 18th December 2019 [<https://www.gov.scot/publications/ferguson-marine-report-on-cost-and-programme-for-vessels-801-and-802/>].

The report indicates:

- a delivery range for vessel 801 of October to December 2021
- a delivery range for vessel 802 of July to October 2022
- an estimated outstanding cost for delivery of the two vessels of £110.3m.

During the inquiry, the Committee hopes to explore:

- the proposals and timetable for the completion of two new hybrid ferries to serve the Clyde and Hebrides ferries network and the associated costs;
- the related issue of the Scottish Government's proposal to assume public ownership of Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd;
- potential implications of this activity for future procurement of maritime vessels to meet the continuing needs of the Clyde and Hebrides ferries network; and
- the potential implications of matters related to this particular procurement process for the ongoing development and updating of the Scottish Government's Ferries Plan and Vessel Replacement & Deployment Programme.

In particular, the Committee would like to hear your views on the following questions:

1. What are your views on the conclusions and recommendations of the programme review board with respect to delivering the most effective delivery programme for the completion of the two vessels, MV Glen Sannox (vessel 801) and vessel 802?
2. What has been the impact of the repeated delays to completion of the contract to construct two hybrid ferries on the specific routes and island communities awaiting delivery and entry into service of these two vessels?
3. What actions can be taken, in particular with respect to improved contract management processes, to ensure future contracts of this type are delivered a) on time; and b) on budget?
4. What key challenges need to be addressed in procuring new vessels to support Scotland's ferry network and how might these be overcome?
5. How might the experience of the procurement and fulfilment of the current hybrid ferries contract inform the development of an updated Ferries Plan?
6. What are the likely implications of the Scottish Government's decision to take Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd. into public ownership for the fulfilment of the current contract and the award of future contracts for the construction of new ferries?
7. What impact is the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union likely to have on the future award of new ferry construction contracts, in particular as regards ongoing compliance with applicable rules on state aid and competitive tendering?

How to submit your evidence

Before making a submission, please read our [Policy on Treatment of Written Evidence by Subject and Mandatory Committees](#).

Please send your views **no later than 7 February 2020**.

Responses should be sent, wherever possible, electronically and in MS Word format to: RECC.ferries.inquiry@parliament.scot

Hard copy responses may be sent to: *Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee, T3.60, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP*

Ideally, responses should be **no more than four sides of A4 in length**.

All written evidence received may be published by the Parliament and will be treated as a public document. If you wish to submit evidence in confidence or anonymously please read the policy at the link above or contact Alex Bruce, details below.

Contact

Should you require alternative formats of this information or further assistance in making a written submission to the Committee, please do not hesitate to contact the clerking team of the Committee.

For Committee information, contact: Steve Farrell, tel 0131 348 5211, email: rec.committee@parliament.scot

For information about submitting evidence in confidence or anonymously, contact: Alex Bruce, tel 0131 348 5229, email: alex.bruce@parliament.scot

For further information, the media contact is: Baktosch Gillan, tel 0131 348 5383, email: baktosch.gillan@parliament.scot

For general enquiries, contact: 0845 278 1999 (local call rate), email: sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk

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