



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Katy Clark MSP  
Member of the Scottish Parliament for West Scotland Region

14 January 2022

Graeme Dey MSP  
Minister for Transport  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Your reference: 202100264622  
Our reference: AFAGRE-JR

**RE: Arran Ferry Action Group**

Dear Graeme,

Thank you for your response to my letter on 14 December regarding the Arran Ferry Action Group. I wanted to address a few of the points you raised in your letter.

It is disappointing that the Official Record has been corrected in this instance, although I understand the First Minister may have honestly misspoke. However, I hope you appreciate it is therefore understandable why this is of frustration to islanders who feel under-represented by the current arrangement. The Arran Ferry Action Group estimates that over 1,300 Arran residents support or engage with the group, a big chunk of the island population, yet it is not recognised as an official stakeholder. My understanding is that the group do regularly attempt to engage with the Arran Ferry Committee, but no means of contact are available beyond a Facebook page. I hope this is considered going forward when considering how the community's views are represented.

I would also like to raise that several constituents on the island have expressed their concern that the level of communication and transparency on the part of the Ardrossan Harbour Task Force is regarded as poor. The meeting papers from the 17 February meeting were not published until 8 December, meaning the decisions taken during the meeting were not publicly available for ten months. Whilst the 7 December minutes have been published in a timelier matter, these are not widely disseminated or publicised as far as I understand. I believe these issues need to be addressed going forward.

Regarding your final point on board seats, I am disappointed by the suggestion that including island representatives on relevant boards going forward is "not appropriate" and "limits the candidate pool". As has been raised by MSPs across parties and across regions, the suggestion is not that candidates be chosen based on where they "come from" but that there should be island community input to decision-making processes affecting the islands they live on, and instead also worker representation.

Presently, there is not a single island resident on either the CMAL or CalMac boards. I agree that experience should be considered a key component of the process for appointments, and



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so ensuring the daily lived experience of islanders is represented is both democratically and practically necessary. I would urge you to reflect on this going forward.

Yours sincerely,

**Katy Clark MSP**  
**West Scotland Region**