



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Katy Clark MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for West Scotland Region

14th December 2021

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

Our reference: AFAG-JR

Arran Ferry Action Group

Dear Graeme,

I am writing regarding the Arran Ferry Action Group, which has made representations to me this week. I note that on 2 December, in response to a question from Kenneth Gibson MSP about Ardrossan to Brodick ferry services, the First Minister confirmed that you would be writing in your capacity as Minister for Transport to stakeholders about the Scottish Government's infrastructure investment plan. In her answer, she cited Peel Ports, North Ayrshire Council and the "Arran Ferry Group" as stakeholders.

Despite this, my understanding is the Arran Ferry Action Group was not invited to the Ardrossan Harbour Task Force meeting on 7 December. I am informed that Transport Scotland subsequently emailed the group to advise that an invitation would in fact not be extended and challenging the official record. There is no other "Arran Ferry Group" I am aware of which the First Minister could have been referring to, so I would like to ask the following:

- Is the Arran Ferry Action Group a recognised stakeholder?
- Is it the Scottish Government's official position that the Official record is inaccurate and needs to be corrected?
- Will the Arran Ferry Action Group be invited to Ardrossan Harbour Task Force meetings going forward?
- Will the Scottish Government commit to reassessing the composition of the boards of CalMac and CMAL with a view to reserving seats for islanders and members of the workforce?

This is an important issue: island communities must be represented in decision making processes going forward, particularly as I believe the future expertise and local knowledge of communities who rely on ferry services will be vital if the well-publicised mistakes of recent years are to be avoided.

I look forward to hearing your answers to these questions and your thoughts on the points made.



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Yours sincerely,

Katy Clark MSP
West Scotland Region