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Our Reference: 202100264622  
Your Reference: AFAG-JR

29 December 2021

Dear Katy

Thank you for your letter of 14 December 2021 regarding the Arran Ferry Action Group (AFAG) and their representation to attend the Ardrossan Task Force following First Minister's questions on 2nd December 2021.

To confirm; the official record of the First Minister's question of 2 December 2021 was inaccurate and is now being corrected.

The official representative body on ferry related issues on Arran is the Arran Ferry Committee, who are a member of the Ardrossan Task Force. AFAG should therefore engage with AFC to raise any concerns and these can then be raised directly at the Task Force.

I can assure you that we are fully committed to ensuring that island residents and communities' views are represented appropriately and I have tasked the newly appointed Chair of David MacBrayne Ltd as a priority, to consider how this might be achieved going forward.

The recruitment process was undertaken in line with approved guidance and was advertised widely, including on the vessels travelling to our island communities, and we were pleased to receive such a high number of applications.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)



Board Members are appointed based on their experience and abilities. Having an understanding of the role of transport, including ferries, in maintaining the economic and social integrity of the Highlands and Islands is a requirement for all Board Members. It is not appropriate to limit the candidate pool for Board membership by imposing requirements for where candidates can come from.

Yours sincerely



**GRAEME DEY**

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