

Petitioner submission of 7 June 2023

PE1862/G: Introduce community representation on boards of public organisations delivering lifeline services to island communities

The evidenced based case for having Islander knowledge on public boards has only increased since we first put forward our petition.

The example of decisions being taken around ferry services is a prime example of unintended consequences and lack of understanding of how dependant Islanders are on lifeline services. We fully understand that boards do not and should not take day to day operational decisions, but they should set the policy, define the way of working and set the culture of the organisation. In addition, it is their duty to hold management to account against the outcomes set by the board.

Our petition is based around bringing the necessary skills to these boards to enable the best informed and mutually beneficial decision making and governance to take place.

Organisations such as DML and HIAL who take misinformed decisions are damaging all the island communities. Even when these decisions are reversed at a later date the damage is already done.

Our petition also seeks to bring better outcomes across many areas of public policy. The initiatives to reverse depopulation, have equality of access and deal with wellbeing are only three such examples and we would encourage that wider benefit to be factored in.

We really feel it would be helpful to be able to give evidence in person to the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee and respectfully ask you to allow that at your next consideration of our petition.