



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Kevin Stewart MSP
Minister for Transport
Scottish Government

By email only

**Net Zero, Energy and Transport
Committee**

c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40

The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

netzero.committee@parliament.scot

Thursday 25 May 2023

Dear Kevin,

Transport Scotland engagement of consultants to support preparations of the next Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service (CHFS) contract

I am writing following press reports that Transport Scotland has engaged two sets of consultants to support preparations for the next CHFS contract. As you are aware, the NZET Committee is concluding an inquiry into a Modern and Sustainable Ferry Service for Scotland. News of these appointments has prompted us to seek clarity to inform our report. I would be grateful if you could advise on—

- Whether consultants were engaged to support preparations of the CHFS2 contract. If so, please direct us to any final report(s), advice, and recommendations;
- The respective roles of CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP and Turner and Townsend with relation to advice on CHFS3 including—
 - The remit of each organisation for this work;
 - The maritime procurement expertise of each organisation;
 - How their role will differ from that undertaken by the consultants who authored Project Neptune?;
 - When you anticipate their work concluding and when this will be put in the public domain;
 - Whether the reported costs of this work are accurate and if not please provide details of the cost of the consultancy work; and
 - Whether you are confident their appointment at this time will ensure arrangements are in place for effective delivery of the next CFHS contract, and your reasons for this.

As the Committee's report will be published shortly, a response to this letter is requested by **0900 on Thursday 1 June 2023**.

Yours sincerely,

Edward Mountain

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee