



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

Kate Forbes
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic
Scottish Government

17 December 2025

Dear Kate,

Ferguson Marine Port Glasgow: the MV Glen Rosa

It was a commitment arising from the last session, following our predecessor Committee's [report on ferry procurement](#), that the Parliament would receive updates on the Glen Sannox and Glen Rosa at least quarterly, setting out transparently what progress had been made and providing revised estimates on cost and delivery.

However, documentation published by the Scottish Government following Freedom of Information requests instead indicate that, while FMPG was ready to share a revised delivery date and cost estimate for the MV Glen Rosa with the Committee (as we had repeatedly requested), they were advised to delay.

In one bundle of documentation released under FOI, it is stated in formal minutes that "SG [Scottish Government] are of the view that the 802 Plan¹ is not shared until after the new FMPG CEO, Graeme Thomson (GT) starts on Thursday, 1st May 2025."² In another bundle, a 31 March email from a Scottish Government official says: "Scottish Government officials to support FMPG with their NZET letter which is to be issued today, no mention of costs/ delivery date."³

By April 2025, it had in fact been months since the Committee had last received from FMPG a *substantive* update on costs and delivery date for the Glen Rosa. (I have set out a timeline with hyperlinks in an annexe.) For instance, the quarterly update of March 31 –the one referred to above– has only this to say on costs and date:

"Over the next month we intend to progress a further stage of review and assurance activity to ensure the MV Glen Rosa operational plan has been fully optimised from the perspective of costs and handover date"

These comments, and others of a similar nature in other correspondence referenced in the annexe, appear unhelpful: to the Parliament; to the public, in whose interest

¹ Hull 802 being the original name for the MV Glen Rosa

² [FOI+202500464652+-+Information+released+-+Annex.pdf](#)

³ [FOI+202500471839+-+Information+Released+-+Annex.pdf](#)

Contact: Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email netzero.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

FMPG is owned; and especially to people reliant on ferries who want to know when the Glen Rosa will be ready – all the more so if relevant information was in fact available and could have been shared.

The Committee eventually received a substantive reply from FMPG on 13 May and we note that, in [your letter of the same day](#) you express disappointment about the revised costs and estimated delivery date.

We would welcome clarification on the following:

The 13 May response from FMPG moved the estimated date by which the MV Glen Rosa would be “substantially complete” to Q1 2026, with the aim to achieve full sign-off and delivery of the vessel in Q2 2026. Forecast costs to complete increased to £172.5m, with an additional £12.5m risk contingency.

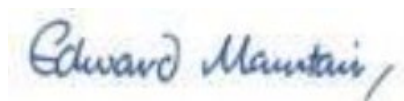
1. When were Transport Scotland / the Scottish Government first notified of (a) this revised delivery estimate and (b) this revised cost estimate; and when were you first personally notified?
2. Were you aware at the time that Scottish Government officials were apparently advising FMPG not to share information about delivery and cost with the Committee?

The Committee accepts that waiting for a new CEO to be in post could be a reason to delay providing updated information, albeit weighed against the public interest in providing this information promptly. We do not think it was acceptable for the Committee, and the public, to wait almost eight months (27 September 2024-13 May 2025) for a substantive update.

3. In your view was it acceptable for there to be this delay in sharing key information with the Committee in this way? The Committee would welcome your assurance that you will do what you can to ensure this will not be repeated going forward into hopefully the last few months before delivery of the Glen Rosa.

I am writing separately to FMPG about this same matter and am also copying this letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport in case any of the issues raised above are best answered by her. I would be grateful for a response by 15 January.

Yours sincerely,



Edward Mountain MSP
Convener

Annexe: correspondence during relevant period

- [27 September 2024 – Quarterly update](#) – while noting workforce and planning changes, the update suggests a delivery date for the MV Glen Rosa of September 2025 and a cost estimate not exceeding £150m.
- [19 December 2024 – Interim update](#) – sets out progress in relation MV Glen Rosa but noted that “We are not yet able to provide a final date and cost to the Committee as various scenarios are currently being worked on with a view to presenting a revised plan to the Board for discussion and approval at the FMPG Board meeting taking place on 30th January 2025. If approved, we will update the Committee on both handover date and Forecasted Cost to Complete on 31st January 2025.”
- No letter was received from FMPG on 31 January 2025 (delayed quarterly update).
- [31 March – FMPG Quarterly update](#) – sets out progress but doesn’t include details on delivery date or costs for the MV Glen Rosa.
- [2 April – Committee letter 1](#) – this letter noted that several months had passed without a substantive update on delivery date or forecast cost to complete. The Committee asked for an update on these points by 16 April.
- [16 April – FMPG response](#) – no substantive update on completion date and cost of completion. It said “work to finalise the revised build plan for MV Glen Rosa remains ongoing” and that FMPG would provide an update to the Committee upon conclusion of the revised build plan.
- [30 April – Committee letter 2](#) – asked again for information on the timeline for delivery and costs of the MV Glen Rosa. The letter also asked that if there were specific reasons why FMPG could not provide this information, it would be helpful if they could set these out so that the Committee may be aware of them. The Committee requested a response by 13 May, otherwise FMPG would be invited to provide oral evidence.
- [13 May - FMPG response from new CEO](#) – the substantive update on timelines and costs that the Committee had been seeking. The letter states the MV Glen Rosa would be substantially complete by Q1 2026 with the aim to achieve full sign-off and delivery of the vessel in Q2 2026. The forecasted cost increased to £172.5 m, with an additional £12.5m risk contingency, meaning the total cost to complete was forecasted as £185 mill.
- [13 May – Letter from Deputy First Minister](#) - Expressed disappointment at the further delay to the delivery of the MV Glen Rosa and a significant increase to its forecasted cost.