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Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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20 January 2026

Dear Edward,

Ferguson Marine Port Glasgow: the MV Glen Rosa

Thank you for your letter of 17 December seeking clarification on the timing of information provided to the Committee and to Scottish Ministers regarding the delivery schedule and cost forecast for MV Glen Rosa.

Representatives of Ferguson Marine and Scottish Government officials attended the Public Audit Committee on 4 February 2025. At that session, the then Interim Chief Executive, John Petticrew, provided evidence on the planning process for MV Glen Rosa and highlighted the risks surrounding the vessel's delivery date.

Shortly after the PAC session, on 13 March, Mr Petticrew resigned his position of interim CEO at Ferguson Marine with immediate effect due to family reasons and returned to Canada. I spoke with the Chair of Ferguson Marine on 15 March who updated me on the Board's recruitment of the new chief executive. The Board had offered the post to Graeme Thomson, an experienced shipbuilder, and he was expected to take up the position shortly.

On 26 March 2025, my officials informed me that the papers for Ferguson Marine's Board the next day (27/03/2025) contained an updated delivery schedule and cost estimate for MV Glen Rosa for Board approval. I was advised that CMAL, as the Government's technical advisers, had had limited time to review plan and the yard had agreed that CMAL required better visibility of operational planning and delivery metrics against the new plan.

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At this stage, the delivery dates and cost estimates shared with the Fergusons Board were still subject to further review and assurance by CMAL and by my officials. Given the absence of a permanent chief executive with shipbuilding experience I considered it essential that any revised delivery plan was robust, fully assured and subject to appropriate senior leadership oversight. The Chair of Ferguson Marine agreed that the updated delivery plan should be reviewed and formally signed off by the incoming permanent chief executive before being confirmed.

Over a period of weeks, the MV Glen Rosa review group undertook a detailed review of the build plan, including sequencing and milestone assumptions. This work was supported by a physical inspection of the vessel to identify key areas of focus and to monitor progress on the ground. The Ferguson Marine project manager for the MV Glen Rosa shared an updated delivery plan with the Scottish Government and CMAL on 30 April.

On 12 May 2025, Graeme Thomson, wrote to me saying he had “conducted a thorough review of the schedule and cost structures underpinning the project” to ensure the delivery schedule and cost forecasts were robust and well informed. Ferguson Marine then advised your Committee of the revised delivery date and forecast cost position on 13 May 2025.

My officials have never sought to impede the flow of information concerning the MV Glen Rosa to your Committee. Their intention throughout has been to ensure that any information shared with the Committee was accurate, reliable and authoritative, rather than provisional or subject to subsequent processes of review.

Yours sincerely,

KATE FORBES

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