



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Hugh Gillies
Interim Chief Executive
Transport Scotland

By email only

Public Audit Committee
Room T3.60
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
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Email:

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13 April 2022

Dear Hugh,

The 2020/21 audit of Scottish Canals

Thank you for attending the Committee meeting on 24 March 2022, to give evidence on the above report by the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS). The [Official Report of the meeting is available here](#).

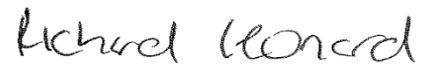
During the evidence session you stated that lessons learned from the 2020/21 audit of Scottish Canals would be shared with other Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) Chief Executives through the dedicated forum that exists. The Committee is interested to hear how and when this work will be taken forward.

We also heard from Fran Pacitti that many of the challenges faced by Scottish Canals, in respect of planning investments and maintenance programmes whilst working within an annualised budget cycle, are replicated across a number of assets in the transport portfolio and a number of NDPBs. Our understanding from Ms Pacitti's evidence, is that while it may now be more difficult in practical terms for Scottish Canals to deliver ambitious medium to longer term capital projects, it is still achievable based on how other NDPB's manage such projects.

The Committee would welcome further information on examples of medium to longer term projects or maintenance programmes under your portfolio that currently are being, or have been, successfully taken forward by NDPBs.

I would be grateful if you could respond to this letter by **13 May 2022**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Leonard". The script is cursive and somewhat informal.

**Richard Leonard MSP,
Convener**