

New Vessels for the Clyde and Hebrides

Written submission from Mr Joseph McKee, by email 21 April 2022

Good Day Richard

I note you will lead an inquiry into the above fiasco. Having spent over 50 years in shipping, from building here in Dundee to sailing as Chief Engineer, Ship Repair Manager in Dubai and over 20 years in Ship management inclusive of repair contract management and development of lay up procedures for vessels out of service, I feel I can speak with some authority. While the abysmal build management is well in focus, there is little attention given to when the vessels enter service and the resultant cost and reliability of Hulls and machinery that have lain dormant for over five years. As above mentioned I developed programs for all types of Marine vessels that were out of service for more than six months. Being out of service they develop coating breakdown within the structures that leads not only to corrosion but more drastically the development of Microbial degradation which accelerates structural wastage in terms of millimetres per year, resulting in wastage beyond minimal requirements and requires replacement. With machinery any machined surfaces not lubricated or turned regularly will corrode or distort, requiring replacement. Electrical equipment ie motors cabling and electronic systems all suffer from the effects of damp air leading to lack of insulation and failure. I suspect the so called "cables too short require replacement" was in fact cabling that had earthed due to damp insulation. When electrical equipment is installed any cable runs are oversized so the claim of being too short on such a numerical scale does not really hit the truth.

After the vessels are delivered Class and Flag State will go over them with a fine tooth coming to deem them suitable for service possibly with expensive repairs and costly equipment replacement. In service they will need constant monitoring and probably extensive out of service repairs,.

I hope the above gives insight to an angle of its management that all involved seem to be shying away from responsibility.

Regs

J.Mckee