

Dear Convener,

As you will know the Audit Scotland report on 'New Ferries for the Clyde and Hebrides' was published this week. Ferries that will be at least five years and two and half times over budget.

The report raises extremely serious questions about financial mismanagement by the Scottish Government.

Key decisions to overrule the advice of CMAL were made by Scottish Ministers. This exposed the taxpayer to enormous risk at the very start of the contract. Audit Scotland reported that there was insufficient documentary evidence on the reasons for this decision.

The First Minister told Parliament yesterday that Derek Mackay was the responsible Minister at the time and that also "the buck stops" with her.

Nicola Sturgeon and Derek Mackay did not give evidence to the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee's Inquiry on Ferry Procurement last year.

I believe it is imperative now that Nicola Sturgeon and Derek Mackay are called to give evidence at the Public Audit Committee and be held to account for the decisions the Government made and their major mismanagement of public funds.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Bibby

Scottish Labour Transport Spokesperson