

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Ceartas agus Seann-ghaisgich
Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans
Keith Brown MSP



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28 November 2022

Dear Convener

New vessels for the Clyde and Hebrides: arrangements to deliver vessels 801 and 802

Thank you for your letter of 10 November 2022.

You have asked me to revisit the answers I provided in my letter of 18 October 2022 to your request of 29 September 2022. I have, as requested, reviewed my responses to the 3 questions put by the Committee and I am content that those responses are accurate and that I do not have any further information to provide.

Further to my letter to the committee of 18 October, it has been brought to my attention that there is an error with reference to submission dates in response to the final set of questions from the committee.

The briefing of 28 August 2015 for the **announcement** of the preferred bidder – rather than the submission of 20 August approving the Preferred Bidder - was the first notification that Ministers received that there were potential issues around the level of guarantees that FMEL could provide.

As the Committee is aware, and can be seen from the published submission of 20 August, Ministers were not aware of the potential issues with the contract at the point the decision on the Preferred Bidder was made.

I realise this would be clear from the evidence available, but I wanted to highlight this clarification for the avoidance of doubt.

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If the Committee has further requests then I would be pleased to provide any further information that would assist in concluding its work.



KEITH BROWN

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