

**New vessels for the Clyde and Hebrides:
Second written submission from Alex Wright by e mail, 9 December 2022**

I was Calmac's naval architectural consultant for approx 25 years, designing vessels and developing designs in the early stages of construction. I am fully conversant with the Calmac fleet and the design and procurement process, having undertaken projects on almost every vessel in the Calmac fleet!

I have been trying to keep abreast of the numerous submissions from the different committees over recent years and I may have missed it previously but cannot recall any mention of CMAL's project management fees. I did notice from the written documents made available to the Audit Committee by the FM on the 30 November 2022 that the contract value was £97M plus approximately £9m CMAL project management costs.

The project management costs were for a 31 month build period, what are the project management cost now ?

Even the £9M cost, considering the design & build is/was the responsibility of the shipbuilder it is a startling amount of money. My view is based on the last 20 years of my career in which I was involved in the project management of numerous CalMac ships.

CMAL offices are literally within 200 metres of Ferguson Marine shipyard making in theory communication easier although this may not affect project management costs. Normally the project management cost would consist of a full time project manager for the duration of the project plus a max of 4 others for say 24 months of the 31 month build period.

So allowing for 5 personnel for the duration of project at say £100K per man per year (would certainly be less than this) would amount to approx £1.25M. If you then give CMAL some leeway and you consider each vessel as a separate project and has a separate project team then the cost would be around the £2.5 M mark. As the ships are identical quite a chunk of plan approval costs can be eliminated from the second ship.

Maybe an input from an interior designer is required but this sometimes is to the Builders account.

So why £9M for project management?

Normally Calmac would have their costs for a Deck officer and Chief Engineer and towards completion, the ships crew but this would not normally be to CMAL's account

If it is being accountable for proper expenditure of public money I think CMAL should be asked to account for their project management costs.