



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Michelle Quinn  
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Transport Scotland

**Public Audit Committee**  
Room T3.60  
The Scottish Parliament  
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By email only

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9 December 2022

Dear Ms Quinn,

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

Thank you for your letter of 28 October in response to the Committee's request for additional information, including copies of the exchange of correspondence between Stuart McMillan MSP and the former Minister for Transport and Islands.

The Committee was disappointed to receive this response one week later than the deadline provided. We were also concerned to note that the copy of the letter from the former Minister provided by Transport Scotland excludes two paragraphs when compared to the version of the same letter we received from Mr McMillan. No attempt has been made to correct this omission.

Transport Scotland was given three weeks to return this information, with the offer to contact the clerks if the deadline date presented any difficulties. In the year and a half I have been Convener of the Public Audit Committee, this is the only occasion I am aware of where repeated attempts were required to establish when this information would be received.

As you will understand, committee scrutiny timetables are necessarily tight given other work demands. We therefore rely on stakeholders wherever possible providing information requested on time and complete. We do of course also recognise that there may be times where it is not possible to comply with the deadlines provided.

Clerks are always happy to discuss with you the Committee's expectations and any challenges you may have in fulfilling these at any point if it is helpful.

The Committee would now ask you to provide a complete version of the former Minister's letter, along with an explanation of the omission, at your earliest opportunity.

We look forward to engaging positively with Transport Scotland in our future work.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Leonard MSP,  
Convener**