

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson na h-Eaconamaidh,
Turasachd agus Còmh dhail
Rt Hon Stephen Flynn MSP
An Fhìor Urr Stephen Flynn BPA



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Willie Rennie MSP
Convener
Transport Committee
Scottish Parliament
EH99 1SO

31 August 2026

Dear Convener,

Update on New Vessels for Islay & Little Minch.

You will have received a letter from Kevin Hobbs of Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) earlier today providing an update on recent actions around delivery of the three remaining vessels ordered from the Cemre yard in Türkiye.

The letter from CMAL notes the background to the current approach to completion – highlighting that this was necessary to maintain progress on the vessels delivery. Scottish Ministers have continued to liaise closely with officials from Transport Scotland and CMAL throughout this process and consider the actions taken and agreements now in place to be appropriate in order to protect public investment and deliver these much needed vessels. MV Loch Indaal is expected to be delivered by October 2026, subject to final commissioning and certification, MV Lochmor is expected to be delivered in Q1 2027 and MV Claymore is expected to be delivered in Q2 2027. CMAL continue to push for as early delivery of all three vessels as practicable.

Ministers have approved around £20 million of additional project costs to complete all three vessels and CMAL have agreed appropriate addendums to the commercial contracts, protecting public investment and maintaining the original vessel specifications. CMAL continue robust monitoring through their on-site staff, as well as regular visits by senior management teams. Full details of the contract addendums, ongoing activities and incurred costs following detailed review cannot be shared due to commercial sensitivities but CMAL will retain control of the vessel ownership and actively manage costs for the remainder of the build process up to and including delivery, prior to repositioning voyages.

Yours sincerely

STEPHEN FLYNN

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