

Willie Rennie
Convener
Transport Committee
Scottish Parliament
EH99 1SO

BY EMAIL

31 August 2026

Dear Mr Rennie,

Interim update on New Vessels for Islay & Little Minch. MV Loch Indaal (NB1093), MV Lochmor (NB1100) and MV Claymore (NB1101)

I am writing to provide the Transport Committee with an update on progress with the three new vessels for the Islay and Little Minch routes: MV Loch Indaal (NB1093), MV Lochmor (NB1100) and MV Claymore (NB1101) all of which remain under construction at Cemre, Yalova, Türkiye.

The MV Isle of Islay (NB1092) is in operation of the Islay route.

Our quarterly update sent to the Committee on 26th June 2026 advised that CMAL had taken ownership of all 3 remaining vessels (captioned above) and that they are now registered in the UK – this was a proactive move in order to secure ownership having recognised the economic difficulties being experienced in the region and within the manufacturing sector of which shipbuilding is an integral part.

We maintain a full site team presence at the shipyard and there are regular visits from the CMAL senior management and Directors.

All three vessels are afloat and are all located at Cemre 1 shipyard for the purposes of efficiency. We are working closely with the shipyard personnel, their suppliers, and subcontractors to achieve delivery of all 3 remaining vessels at the earliest opportunity

The date ranges that we are currently working towards regarding delivery in Yalova are as follows

- MV Loch Indaal – October 2026 (sea trials have been completed)
- MV Lochmor – Q1 2027 (sea trials planned for November 2026)
- MV Claymore – Q2 2027 (vessel launched early May 2026)

Once the delivery has taken place there will be preparations for and the repositioning voyage from the “Sea of Marmara” back to Scotland and thereafter final preparations by CalMac to enter into service.

We will give a full update regarding the vessels no later than 30th September 2026 as this continues the commitment to give quarterly updates until the vessels are all delivered.

Best Regards

Kevin Hobbs
Chief Executive
Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited