Dear Paul,

CALEDONIAN MARITIME ASSETS LTD (CMAL) ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2017-18

Thank you for your letter of 4 December notifying the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee that the Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) Annual Accounts 2017-18 were laid before the Scottish Parliament on 7 November 2018.

At its meeting on 5 December, the Committee took evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity on a range of transport issues. During this session, the delay in the delivery of the two new hybrid ferries currently being constructed for CMAL by Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd. was discussed. This included reference to current disagreements between CMAL and Ferguson Marine in relation to specification changes for these vessels and associated costs. The Committee is aware that Ferguson Marine may be considering making formal claims against CMAL in relation to these matters.

In this regard, the Committee is surprised to note that the recently published CMAL accounts do not appear to include any contingent liability in relation either to the delay in the delivery of the two new vessels or to any associated financial claims which may be made by the contractor. The Committee would welcome clarity on why this is the case.

I should be grateful if you could consider this matter and arrange for a response to be provided by close on Wednesday 19 December.
Kind regards

Edward Mountain
Convener