REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 (FOISA)

Thank you for your request dated 1 May 2016, received by Transport Scotland on 3 May 2016, under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Your request

You asked:-

1. What day/date and year was the decision made by Transport Scotland/CalMac Ferries Ltd/Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd and fully ratified by all parties that the MV Isle of Lewis was no longer being considered as the second vessel on the Craignure Oban route from Summer 2016 service? It is recognised that the VRDP was the Annual Report for 2014 but was not published until 2nd October 2015.

2. Why was the MV Isle of Lewis not considered to become the second vessel on the route and for what reasons?

3. What day/date and year was the decision made by Transport Scotland/CalMac Ferries Ltd/Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd or any Government department or agency that fully agreed and ratified that the MV Coruisk would be re-deployed from the Mallaig-Armadale route to the the Oban Craignure route with effect from the start of the 2016 CHFS routes summer season on 25th March 2016?

Response to your request

1. Under the terms of the Public Service Contract with the Scottish Ministers, CalMac Ferries Ltd are responsible for vessel deployment on the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service Network. On 24 July 2015, it was reported by CalMac Ferries Ltd to the Mull Ferry Services and Associated Works Meeting (which brings together Transport Scotland, CalMac, CMAL and Argyll and Bute Council) that the MV Isle of Lewis was no longer being considered as the second vessel on the Oban – Craignure route for the Summer 2016 service.
This was also reported by CalMac to the Network Strategy Programme Steering Group (NSPSG) on 14 July 2015. (NSPSG consists of representatives from Transport Scotland, Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd and CalMac Ferries Ltd who are looking at the vessel replacement programme.)

2. This was determined by CalMac Ferries Ltd following berthing trials of the MV Isle of Lewis at Craignure in June 2015.

3. Scottish Ministers are responsible for the approval of timetable changes and CalMac Ferries Ltd are responsible for vessel deployment decisions. The deployment of the MV Coruisk to Oban – Craignure was integral to the option that was taken forward for Summer 2016. The timetable approval timeline is detailed below:-

CFL submitted proposed Summer 2016 timetable changes: 20 August 2015
Ministerial approval in principle: 17 September 2015
Launch of CFL consultation: 22 September 2015
Final Ministerial approval: 24 November 2015
CFL open Summer 2016 timetable bookings (except Mallaig-Armadale) 23 December 2015
CFL open Sleat 2016 timetable on website 15 January 2016.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your FOI request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to

Roy Brannen  
Chief Executive  
Transport Scotland  
Buchanan House  
58 Port Dundas Road  
Glasgow  
G4 0HF

Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review and tell you the result, within 20 working days from the date when we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your rights is available on the Commissioner’s website at: www.itssplickknowledge.info.

Yours Sincerely,

R Davie  
Policy Manager

www.transportscotland.gov.uk