June 2017

Dear Stakeholder

You will be aware that a Ferries Procurement Policy Review stakeholder event took place in Oban on 30 May 2017. I know that unfortunately you were unable to attend but I wanted to provide you with a further update, and set out the next steps in the process.

The event was very helpful, providing us with the opportunity to engage directly with stakeholders about the purpose of the policy review, and also allowing us to gather views on the future approach to securing Scottish lifeline ferry services.

Given you were unable to attend the event, I would like to invite you, or someone else within your organisation, to write to us with any views you might have about the policy review. For ease I have set out below the specific questions asked at the stakeholder event:

1. What key considerations would support an in-house operation or competitive tendering of ferry services in future from a local community perspective? And
2. If we can apply the Teckal exemption and comply with State aid rules, and subject to wider policy and value for money implications, should we:
   a) provide services through an in-house operator, or
   b) continue to tender?

Views expressed during our engagement with stakeholders, and any further views gathered will be shared with Humza Yousaf MSP, Minister for Transport and the Islands. Views gathered will then be used to inform the review and will be reflected in the report, due to be published later this year. Further information about the review process will be made available on Transport Scotland’s website. In the meantime, please feel free to write to us if you or your organisation have anything further you wish to add.
If you are writing to us, I would be grateful if you could let us know if you are happy for your name and details of your response to be made public on Transport Scotland’s website, or if you wish your name and/or response to be kept confidential. You should note however that the Scottish Government is subject to the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act.

Yours faithfully

Carol Nowbaveh