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Jim McColl OBE  
Clyde Blowers

By email



In 2014 Scotland Welcomes the World



20<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Dear Jim,

We understand you are considering the possibility of acquiring the Ferguson shipyard. In order to assist you in this consideration and subject to appropriate procurement processes we would wish to make three points clear.

Firstly, CalMac will be prepared to commit to working with Ferguson with a view to undertaking a refit and refurbishment of the existing fleet. CalMac are keen to extend the life cycle of the vessels with a particular emphasis on improving fuel efficiency and reducing carbon impact for which Ferguson have demonstrable expertise.

Secondly, as you will be aware CMAL undertook a procurement exercise in 2011 for four diesel electric hybrid vessels, two of which have been delivered by Ferguson. CMAL will be procuring a third new vessel in this series in early course to enhance their fleet which will be of a size and specification for which Ferguson will have the capability to deliver.

Thirdly, the Scottish Government has committed to support a flow of investment in the CMAL fleet as specified in its Ferries Plan. This will create clear opportunities for Ferguson to tender for sustainable contracts in the medium term.

JOHN SWINNEY