

## Annex A

### Appendix A - email exchange following Pentalina incident TS/CFL

**From:** [redacted] @calmac.co.uk>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 29, 2023 10:01 PM  
**To:** [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted] @calmac.co.uk>; [redacted] @calmac.co.uk>; [redacted] @calmac.co.uk>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Re: MV Alfred Charter Discussions

Thanks [redacted]

Pending what PF say tomorrow may be worth a discussion in terms of how we progress.

Sent from Outlook for Android

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**From:** [redacted] @transport.gov.scot <[redacted] @transport.gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 29, 2023 9:53:56 PM  
**To:** [redacted] @calmac.co.uk>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot <[redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted] @calmac.co.uk>; [redacted] @calmac.co.uk>; [redacted] @calmac.co.uk>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot <[redacted] @transport.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: MV Alfred Charter Discussions

Hi [redacted]

Adding in [redacted] who is on-call for TS comms this weekend. If you can share any lines in due course that would be helpful.

[redacted]  
Contract Management  
Ferries Unit  
T: [redacted]  
Mobile: [redacted]  
Email: [redacted] @transport.gov.scot

**From:** [redacted] @calmac.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 29 April 2023 21:10  
**To:** [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted] @calmac.co.uk>; [redacted] @calmac.co.uk> [redacted] @calmac.co.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: MV Alfred Charter Discussions

Sorry not great news for now.

[redacted], I think you are aware but MV Pentalina appears to be in some difficulty in the vicinity of St Margaret's Hope - potential grounding. RNLI lifeboats on scene.

Nothing from PF, who will be focused on managing the situation. If the situation is serious then we may be asked if we can release Alfred to support the service. Contractually there are no grounds to support this, however not sure what view of TS and Ministers on this would be.

Thanks  
[redacted]

Sent from Outlook for Android

## Appendix B - SGoRR email re MV Pentalina incident 29.04.23

**From:** [redacted] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** SGoRR Information  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 29, 2023 10:09 PM  
**To:** Minister for Transport <MinisterforT@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** TS Resilience Mailbox <tsresilience@transport.gov.scot>; SGoRR Information <SGoRRInformation@gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Media <DLECONPTSM@transport.gov.scot>; Roddy Macdonald <Roddy.Macdonald@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Jim Baird <jim.baird@gov.scot>; [redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted] @gov.scot>; Critical Infrastructure Resilience Unit <CIRU@gov.scot>; NoS RRP <NoSRRP@gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; SGPreparedness <SGPreparedness@Gov.Scot>  
**Subject:** RE: MV Pentalina update

Evening Minister/PO

We have just received a further update relating to the above vessel operated by Pentland Ferries on the St Margaret's Hope (SMH) - Gills Bay route which has just run aground adjacent to the pier at St Margaret's Hope, Orkney:

- MV Pentalina is a passenger and vehicle ferry operated by Pentland Ferries, Orkney between SMH and Gills Bay, Caithness
- She is the older of the two vessels operated by the company, the newer MV Alfred is currently on trials with Calmac
- The vessel is currently on the right side of the pier as per image attached
- Vessel was due to berth at SMH and reports were received of a fire on board the vessel which has now been extinguished and following the grounding of water ingress which has now been stopped
- A Major incident has been declared by Police Scotland in relation to this incident
- Kirkwall and Stromness lifeboats and 3 HMCG coastal rescue teams were sent to the incident location
- Weather conditions were extremely favourable and tactical plan was enabled to remove passengers once tide had ebbed.
- 72 on board the vessel including 13 crew. One passenger reported as frail - **all passengers have been evacuated safely**; the crew are to remain on the vessel
- No reports of any injuries
- Local hall has been set up nearby (stumpy breaches shelter) for passengers

- Transport has been arranged by Pentland Ferries to convey passengers home or to their accommodation
- A meeting of Orkney Local Emergency Coordination Group (OLECG) will take place at 2215 hours
- Further update to be provided after this meeting

#### Forward look

The vessel will have to be removed from service which will leave the Northlink strategic connection with Orkney through Scrabster and Aberdeen

The MV Alfred is currently on trial with Calmac

There is likely to be considerable press interest given the grounding of the MV Alfred on 5 July 2022

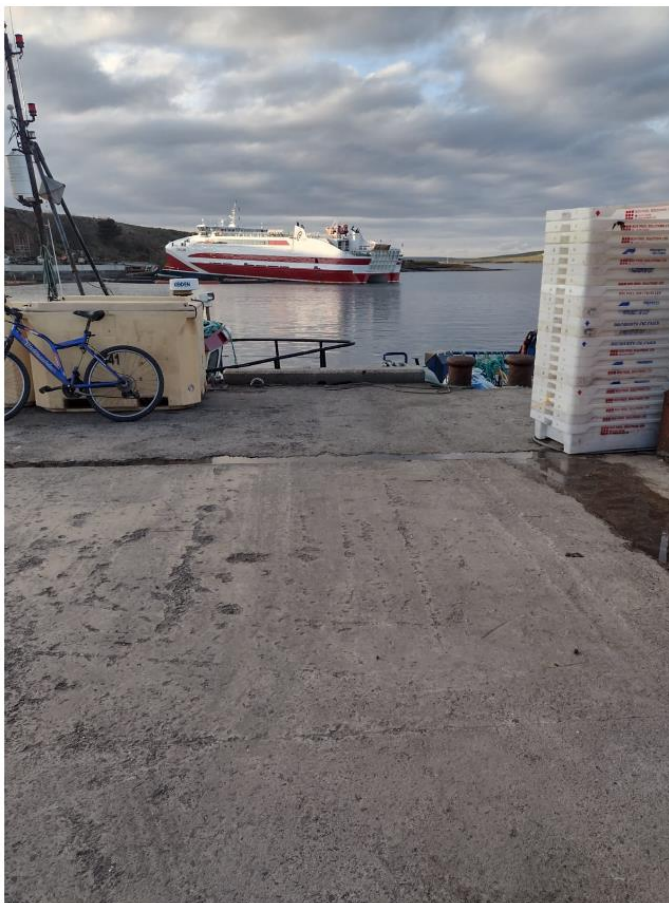
The MV Pentalina was off service for some time yesterday for technical reasons (no further information)

Kind regards

[redacted]

SGoRR On Call Duty Officer

#### ATTACHMENT TO EMAIL



## Appendix C - MV Pentalina incident SGoRR update 2 30.04.23

**From:** [redacted] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** SGoRR Information

**Sent:** Sunday, April 30, 2023 12:08 AM

**To:** Minister for Transport <MinisterforT@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Media <DLECONPTSM@transport.gov.scot>; Roddy Macdonald <Roddy.Macdonald@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecNZJT@gov.scot>; SGoRR Information <SGoRRInformation@gov.scot>; [redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted] @gov.scot>; Harry Huyton <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads\_Admin@gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot[redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; TS Resilience Mailbox <tsresilience@transport.gov.scot[redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Media <DLECONPTSM@transport.gov.scot>; Roddy Macdonald <Roddy.Macdonald@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Jim Baird <jim.baird@gov.scot>; [redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted] @gov.scot>; Critical Infrastructure Resilience Unit <CIRU@gov.scot>; NoS RRP <NoSRRP@gov.scot>; SGPreparedness <SGPreparedness@Gov.Scot>

**Subject:** RE: MV Pentalina - update

Good Evening  
PS/First Minister,  
PS/Cabinet Secretaries,  
PS/Ministers,

Please see update below following meeting of Orkney Local Emergency Coordinating Group at 2245 hours, chaired by [redacted], Superintendent, Police Scotland Duty Officer

### Vessel

- Refloat plan being worked on with [redacted], Orkney. Dive team in attendance
- There is a potential for this to take place at 0600 hours 30.04.23 at high tide.
- Vessel stable and boomed for pollution. There are no emissions at this stage.
- MAIB informed and will attend Orkney 30.04.23.
- Vessel will require to be surveyed by MCA before it can be brought back into service.
- Pentland ferries will repatriate vehicles on successful refloat. Pentland Ferries have all the vehicle keys in their possession. OIC will assist in coordinating this activity.

### Passengers

- No persons injured and all passengers and crew have been evacuated from the ferry.
- Passengers were allowed to retrieve essential personal items including medication before disembarkation.
- All disembarked to Cromarty Hall, St Margaret's Hope.

- All passengers have been transported to either their home address or accommodation.
- 8 crew remain on vessel (this is the berth capacity of the vessel).

### **Forward look**

- Major incident rescinded by Police Scotland
- Capacity of Northlink MV Hamnavoe being addressed and Northlink have already taken freight bookings as a result of this incident.
- Monday start of Northlink 3 return trip summer timetable. During the grounding of the MV Alfred in July 2022, MV Hamnavoe operated a fourth crossing.
- Sunday/ Wed and Fri are direct freight vessel sailings to Orkney.
- Ample capacity for foot passengers on MV Hamnavoe – c600 passenger capacity.
- On 1 May 2023, John O’Groats ferries commence their summer passenger service from Burwick, Orkney to John O’Groats. This carries c250 passengers only.
- Police Scotland to review police presence at locus to ensure protection of public/ integrity of vessel recovery etc. This will be augmented by HMCG Coastal rescue teams.
- OLECG meeting scheduled for 1100 hours 30.04.23.
- SGoRR continue to monitor and will update

Kind regards

[redacted] SGoRR On Call Duty Officer

### **Appendix D - MV Pentalina incident SGoRR update 3 30.04.23**

**From:** [redacted] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** SGoRR Information

**Sent:** Sunday, April 30, 2023 11:57 AM

**To:** SGoRR Information <SGoRRInformation@gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterforT@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice & Home Affairs <CabSecJHA@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Media <DLECONPTSM@transport.gov.scot>; Roddy Macdonald <Roddy.Macdonald@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecNZJT@gov.scot>; [redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted] @gov.scot>; Harry Huyton <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads\_Admin@gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; TS Resilience Mailbox <tsresilience@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Media <DLECONPTSM@transport.gov.scot>; Roddy Macdonald <Roddy.Macdonald@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Jim Baird <jim.baird@gov.scot>; [redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted] @gov.scot>; Critical Infrastructure Resilience Unit < CIRU@gov.scot>; NoS RRP <NoSRRP@gov.scot>; SGPreparedness

<SGPreparedness@Gov.Scot>; Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@gov.scot>; [redacted] @gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: MV Pentalina - update

Good morning  
PS/First Minister,  
PS/Cabinet Secretaries,  
PS/Ministers,

Please see below update following meeting of Orkney Local Emergency Coordinating Group (OLECG) at 1100 hours this morning, chaired by [redacted], Area Commander, Orkney

### **Vessel**

- The vessel was refloated and brought to berth at 0645 hours this date following an operation this morning.
- Vessel remains stable no pollution concerns.
- Vehicles have been removed from the vessel with no damage and repatriation is almost complete.

### **Passengers**

- No further issues reported overnight.

### **Forward look**

- Pentland Ferries have cancelled all ferries up to and including 3 May 2023.
- Dive team to undertake full hull examination 1200 hours this date which will determine future sailings beyond above date.
- Northlink report no major change from last night. They continue to receive bookings as customers transfer across service providers but no issues with capacity at this stage.
- Northlink summer timetable commences on 1 May 2023. This will move to 3 return crossings across the Pentland Firth per day.
- During the grounding of the MV Alfred in July 2022, Northlink stepped up the service to 4 crossings per day.
- Northlink continue their dedicated freight service MV Helliard will continue to service Orkney on Sunday, Wednesday and Fridays.
- Orkney will continue to be serviced via "North boats" MV Hrossey and MV Hjatland sailing from Aberdeen/ Lerwick, Shetland and calling alternatively in Orkney.
- On 1 May 2023, John O'Groats ferries commence their summer passenger service from Burwick, Orkney to John O'Groats. This carries c250 passengers only.
- No further requirement for Police/ HMCG at locus as vessel is in berth.
- Recovery will be coordinated by Orkney Islands Council in association with Pentland Ferries and other agencies.
- OLECG will continue to monitor the situation and a determination on a further meeting will be made following hull survey results.
- SGoRR continue to monitor and will update with readout if an OLECG takes place.

Kind regards

[redacted]  
SGoRR On Call Duty Officer

## **Appendix E – Discussion with Orkney Islands Council - briefing - 30 April 2023**

**From:** [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 30 April 2023 13:46  
**To:** Minister for Transport <MinisterforT@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Media <DLECONPTSM@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecNZJT@gov.scot>; SGoRR Information <SGoRRInformation@gov.scot>; [redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted] @gov.scot>; Harry Huyton <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads\_Admin@gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Roddy Macdonald <Roddy.Macdonald@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Discussion with Orkney Islands Council

[redacted],

Please find attached the briefing for GMS and Cllr [redacted] calls (broadly the same issue).

I will pick up on some further background in the premeeting with MFT. [redacted].

Let us know if you need anything further. I will be out until the premeet but [redacted] will be able to pick up anything urgent (thanks [redacted]).

[redacted]

[redacted]  
**Head Of Ferries Branch**  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Transport  
**Sent:** 30 April 2023 12:28  
**To:** [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterforT@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Media <DLECONPTSM@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecNZJT@gov.scot>; SGoRR Information <SGoRRInformation@gov.scot>; [redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted] @gov.scot>; Harry Huyton <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads\_Admin@gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Roddy Macdonald <Roddy.Macdonald@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Discussion with Orkney Islands Council

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for this.

Mr Stewart has said he will do the call at 4pm.

I will speak to the council and set up a Teams call. Can briefing please be arranged and officials identified for the call and I will send on the link.

Thanks  
[redacted]

[redacted] | Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Just Transition - Màiri McAllan MSP | The Scottish Government | Web: [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot) | Mob: [redacted] | Email: [CabsecNZJT@gov.scot](mailto:CabsecNZJT@gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>

**Sent:** 30 April 2023 11:50

**To:** Minister for Transport <MinisterforT@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Media <DLECONPTSM@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecNZJT@gov.scot>; SGoRR Information <SGoRRInformation@gov.scot>; [redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted] @gov.scot>; Harry Huyton <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads\_Admin@gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Roddy Macdonald <Roddy.Macdonald@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Discussion with Orkney Islands Council

Given MFT has accepted the press interview I would suggest he would also want to do this call. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

**Head Of Ferries Branch**

[redacted]

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Transport

**Sent:** 30 April 2023 11:48

**To:** [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>

**Cc:** Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Media <DLECONPTSM@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecNZJT@gov.scot>; SGoRR Information <SGoRRInformation@gov.scot>; [redacted] @gov.scot>; [redacted] @gov.scot>; Harry Huyton <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads\_Admin@gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Roddy Macdonald <Roddy.Macdonald@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>

**Subject:** FW: URGENT - Discussion with Orkney Islands Council

**Importance:** High



Hi [redacted],

We have just received the below email from Orkney Islands Council.

Can you please provide advice on this.

Thanks  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted] @orkney.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 30 April 2023 11:38  
**To:** Minister for Transport <MinisterforT@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** URGENT - Discussion with Orkney Islands Council  
**Importance:** High

**Classification: NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

Hi there

Following the incident with the Pentalina in Orkney yesterday evening, the Orkney Islands Council Leader [redacted] is keen to have an urgent chat with you about the situation – is that possible?

[redacted] Communications Team Leader  
Strategy, Performance & Business Solutions  
Orkney Islands Council

Mobile [redacted]

## **ATTACHMENT TO EMAIL**

### **TOP LINES**

- **Shortly after the incident, Northlink Ferries proactively contacted key freight users likely to be impacted by the outage of the Pentland Ferries service to ensure that essential goods could be delivered to the island – such as supermarket goods.**

[redacted]

- **Northlink move to their peak summer timetable this week and that will of course see more capacity on the route with a return to 3 sailings a day. Transport Scotland has already held discussions with Northlink on the possibility of increasing capacity further through this route or its passenger and freight services from Aberdeen.**

- Ministers were quickly made aware of the incident involving the MV Pentalina and kept informed of developments throughout.
- Scottish Government resilience teams were also closely involved in discussions with local resilience partnerships in Orkney.
- We were relieved that all passengers and crew are safe and that arrangements were made to support passengers with onward travel.
- We would also like to express our appreciation to all those involved in the evacuation, including RNLI crews and other emergency services. And of course the crew of the vessel itself.
- As you would expect we are working with key partners, including Orkney Islands Council and Northlink Ferries to consider what steps are needed to maintain adequate capacity to Orkney – this will depend on the length of time the MV Pentalina is likely to be out of service. Currently these are cancelled until at least 3 May.
- On Calmac Services, we note there were some issues on the services to Arran on Sunday that were quickly resolved on the primary route, although some services were running later than others.
- We look forward to seeing the return to service of the Hebridean Isles as soon as possible and the completion of the overhaul period to bring the fleet back to full strength.

## TOPICS

### CHARTER OF MV ALFRED

**Scottish Ministers have provided funding to CalMac Ferries to enable the charter of the MV Alfred to provide additional resilience for a 9 Month period.**

- MV Alfred is expected has begun a nine-month charter with CalMac from Thursday 27 April.
- The terms and conditions of the charter are a commercial matter between Calmac and Pentland Ferries.

- **If Pressed:** There is no recall clause within the terms of the contract. Again, this was a commercial decision by Pentland Ferries as part of its discussions with Calmac.
- Pentland Ferries announced that MV Pentalina has returned to service therefore releasing MV Alfred from the Pentland Firth.
- CalMac is undertaking berthing trials with MV Alfred, as the vessel has never operated or completed berthing trials on any of their routes, berthing trials are required before she commences service and will allow deployment plans to be confirmed as soon as these have been completed.
- The vessel has successfully berthed at Ullapool, Lochmaddy and Port Askaig and will be undertaking trials at Brodick on Sunday.
- Further ports expected to be visited by MV Alfred over the coming week to conduct these trials include Campbeltown, Ardrossan and Troon. The vessel will also conduct trials at Ayr harbour to determine suitability as a lay by berth. The vessel available for service following these trials.
- The decision to offer the MV Alfred for charter rather than MV Pentalina was taken by Pentland Ferries as a commercial company.
- It is crewed and operated by Pentland Ferries under a Time Charter. Terms and conditions for crews are a matter for them as the operators, but CalMac confirms they are receiving the Living Wage.

**Call with Cllr [redacted], 16:00-16:30, 30 April 2023**

**Attendees:**

**Cllr [redacted],** Leader, Orkney Islands Council (OIC)

[redacted] Chief Exec OIC, joined the Council from Renfrewshire Jan 23

[redacted], long standing employee of OIC, currently Corporate Director - Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration

[redacted], Communications & Engagement Officer, OIC

**Official Support** , [redacted] , Head of Ferries TS

**Specific Points for Cllr [redacted] Call**

Cllr [redacted] is likely to seek assurances that capacity will be provided to Orkney via the Pentland Firth, either through the return of the MV Alfred or increasing Northlink services. Key points to note are –

- Northlink have already been proactively engaging with key freight customers since hearing of the event to ensure that key goods can reach Orkney.
- It will be essential to understand Pentland Ferries forward bookings for any outage period and any pressure OIC can bring to encourage them to share this would be helpful.
- At this point we are keeping all options open to provide capacity – including whether 4 return sailings can be provided on the Scrabster to Stromness route *if necessary*. There is currently capacity across the week with pressure on some peak sailings.
- The circumstances are different from the MV Alfred grounding as Northlink are not yet at peak season staffing and volumes are broadly lower. This may make it logistically challenging and it may also be a more appropriate options to look at the Aberdeen routes.
- We would welcome any further intel the council has on this.
- The decision to offer the MV Alfred for Charter rather than MV Pentalina was a commercial decision for Pentland Ferries. [redacted]

### **Maritime Safety**

Orkney MSP Liam McArthur has been quoted in the press saying “there were also important questions for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to answer as it had recently inspected and certified the Pentalina as fit for service.”

### **Lines to take**

- It is not for me to comment on these matters.
- Maritime Safety is a matter reserved to the UK Government through the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.
- It will be for the UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch to conform the process and take forward an investigation into this incident.

### **Most Recent SGORR Update**

ALREADY SUPPLIED UNDER APPENDIX D

### **LOCAL AUTHORITY FERRIES**

- We recognise the challenge for local authorities that have responsibility for ferries, and have provided more than £136m over the last 5 years to support the running of these services.

- We committed, in the recent budget announcement to continue to fully fund the operation of local authority ferries in 2023-24. Officials are speaking with the four local authorities involved to agree funding.
- Revenue funding distribution for 2023-24 will be confirmed as soon as possible.
- We are aware of the growing need for local authorities to replace ageing ferry fleets and infrastructure, and while responsibility for funding replacement infrastructure does remain wholly with the councils, we are committed to continuing engagement.
- Further work, initiated by the former Deputy First Minister, is ongoing to support both Shetland and Orkney in developing their fleet replacement plans, recognising the challenges these islands face.
- *Press Line 21/4/23* - "The Scottish Government remains committed to the Orkney Internal Ferry Replacement Task Force. The next timing of the next meeting will be agreed with relevant stakeholders in due course."

## **Appendix F- MV Pentalina - grounding 29 April 2023 - Meeting with OIC - briefing - 10 May 2023**

**From:** [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2023 8:38 AM

**To:** Minister for Transport <MinisterforT@gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Roddy Macdonald <Roddy.Macdonald@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>

**Cc:** Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Leanne Dobson <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Urgent - Meeting with Orkney Islands Council

Morning PO

Please find attached briefing for the Minister's call with the council later today. If anything changes in terms of service provision or updates on Pentalina dry dock, we can let the Minister know before the call.

[redacted]

Contract Management

Ferries Unit

T: [redacted]

Mobile: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

## ATTACHMENT TO EMAIL

### MINISTERIAL ENGAGEMENT BRIEFING:

**Event: Meeting with Orkney Island Council**

**Date: Wednesday 10 May 2023**

**Time: 14:45 – 15:15**

<b>Key Message</b>	Scottish Ministers have provided funding of £9m to enable a 9 month charter of the MV Alfred to increase the resilience of the Clyde & Hebrides Ferry Service network.  What impact the incident with MV Pentalina is having on capacity on NorthLink services
<b>Who</b>	Councillor [redacted] – Leader of Orkney Council [redacted] – Chief Executive, Orkney Council
<b>Why</b>	Follow-up meeting to previous on 30 April
<b>Where</b>	MS Teams
<b>When</b>	Wednesday 10 May, 14:45 – 15:15
<b>Supporting Officials</b>	[redacted], Head of Ferries Unit, [redacted] [redacted], Contract Management, [redacted]

## **MINISTERIAL MEETING: MEETING WITH ORKNEY ISLAND COUNCIL**

### **Top Lines**

- NorthLink ferries, have continued to be proactive in reaching out to hauliers and monitoring capacity available across their routes. Last week they moved to their increased sailings on the Pentland Firth of 3 return trips, including Sunday's from 8 May.
- There are other options which can be considered to increase capacity on the Aberdeen route, including a return trip to Kirkwall by the freight vessel on a Tuesday, which is normally a lay-over day. We are engaging daily with NorthLink.
- The circumstances are different from the MV Alfred grounding last year as NorthLink are not yet at peak season staffing and volumes are broadly lower. This may make it logistically challenging and it may also be a more appropriate options to look at the Aberdeen routes.
- This Government provided funding to CalMac Ferries to enable the charter of the MV Alfred to provide additional resilience for a 9 month period. The terms and conditions of the charter are a commercial matter between CalMac and Pentland Ferries - but there is no recall clause within the terms of the contract which was a commercial decision by Pentland Ferries as part of its discussions with CalMac.
- Ministers were aware that the charter of the MV Alfred to CalMac was delayed due to MV Pentalina being issued with a restricted passenger certificate by the MCA. This delay was regrettable and out with TS or CalMac's control.

### **NORTHLINK SERVICES**

The operator is considering an increase to 4 services possibly from this week, initially three nights a week, Fri-Sat, Sat-Sun and Mon-Tues with a review to assess on-going demand as we move further into May/June. Proposed times:

Dep: Stromness 21:15  
Arr: Scrabster 22:45  
Dep: Scrabster 23:30  
Arr: Stromness 01:00

There are also options to look at increasing capacity on the Aberdeen/Kirkwall route, most likely will be offering a return trip on the Tuesday layover day.

It has to be noted however any change to current schedules comes with risk, in particular the loss of resilience or recovery opportunity whether as a consequence of weather or operational disruption.

### **MV PENTALINA**

Last week I met with [redacted] and [redacted] from Pentland Ferries. [redacted]. I understand Pentland Ferries have confirmed on their website that services are cancelled until at least 21 May.

Pentland Ferries have shared some data on bookings still in their systems, however this has been very vague, and not attributed to specific days or sailings. This also makes it difficult for NorthLink to plan ahead.

The Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA) is conducting a survey. Maritime Safety is a matter reserved to the UK Government through the MCA. It will be for the UK MAIB to confirm the process and take forward an investigation into this incident. We await the outcome of any investigation and actions to prevent any recurrence.

As you may be aware, the MV Pentalina was issued with her safety certificate by the MCA following a slight delay. Any suggestion that pressure was put on the MCA to issue a safety certificate for MV Pentalina by Ministers is completely wrong.

Neither Ministers nor CalMac were involved in the process and to suggest they would seek to interfere with matters of safety is disingenuous. And given their important focus on maritime safety, it is wrong to suggest that the MCA would succumb to such pressure.

### **MV ALFRED**

This Government provided funding to CalMac Ferries to enable the charter of the MV Alfred on the Clyde and Hebrides network for a 9 month period which began on 27 April.

The decision to offer the MV Alfred for charter rather than MV Pentalina was taken by Pentland Ferries as a commercial company. It will be crewed and operated by Pentland Ferries under a Time Charter. Terms and conditions for crews are a matter for them as the operators. Ministers are not involved in the commercial discussions and these rightly should remain between CalMac and Pentland Ferries.

The vessel has carried out successful berthing trials across the CHFS network with more to be carried out. **The vessel is currently “off hire”, due to the hydraulic system requiring repairs.** CalMac continue to engage with Pentland Ferries. It is hoped she can resume trials later this week.

The vessel will primarily be available for resilience purposes to enable her to step in to replace or release a major vessel if there is an issue. This will minimise the amount of time an island is left without a service or that an island with a 2 vessel service is left without one of their core vessels.

When not required for resilience purposes she will be used to add capacity to routes for example on Arran and Islay. It is also hoped it may allow for other vessels to carry out berthing trials across some of the network.

### **LOCAL AUTHORITY FERRIES – GENERAL**

ALREADY SUPPLIED UNDER APPENDIX E attachment

### **Appendix G - Excerpt from - Looking Back / Looking Forward: Week past – 1<sup>st</sup> May – Week Ahead – 12<sup>th</sup> May – Update for CEO**

- SG Resilience and TS Ferries were involved over the weekend with stakeholders and briefing Ministers. Minister spoke to Orkney Council Leader and media bids.



- We are monitoring the position – not clear yet how long Pentalina will be out of service. North Link services coping with demand as they went to summer timetable this week. (3 sailing a day).
- Following the grounding of Pentland Ferries MV Pentalina on Saturday evening, there has not currently been an approach to CalMac about possible return by the MV Alfred. There is no clause in the charter contract for such a release.

#### **Appendix H – Excerpt from - TS/CFL Weekly Ops Call held on 2 May 2023.**

- See details above about berthing trials for MV Alfred . No approach by Pentland Ferries following grounding of MV Pentalina at weekend.

#### **Appendix I – Topical question on MV pentalina**

This information is available at [Meeting of the Parliament: 02/05/2023 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

#### **Appendix J – SCANCE Note on grounding of Pentlina**

**From:** [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>

**Sent:** Monday, May 1, 2023 1:56 PM

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecNZJT@gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>

**Cc:** Roddy Macdonald <Roddy.Macdonald@transport.gov.scot>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Leanne Dobson <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Updates for FM/Cab Sec

[redacted],

Please find a SCANCE note attached. Hopefully this covers the key points. I will be unavailable for the rest of today but can make amendments tomorrow if needed.

[redacted]

[redacted]

**Head Of Ferries Branch**

[redacted]

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero & Just Transition

**Sent:** 01 May 2023 12:05

**To:** [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>

**Cc:** Roddy Macdonald <Roddy.Macdonald@transport.gov.scot>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Leanne Dobson <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecNZJT@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Updates for FM/Cab Sec

Thanks [redacted].

The Cab Sec has asked for an Oral SCANCE note the Pentalina including some general material.

The Net Zero Cabinet portfolio briefing already includes. I think that will need to be updated.

Thanks  
[redacted]

## **ATTACHMENT TO EMAIL**

### **SCANCE Contribution - Speaking Note**

**A copy of this should be sent to Cabinet Secretariat when complete**

**Pentland Ferries vessel, MV Pentalina, appeared to have suffered a sudden engine failure and potentially a fire at around 19.30 on Saturday evening. The vessel was grounded near the pier at St Margaret's Hope, Orkney, and passengers safely evacuated by the RNLi and crew. The vessel was floated around 0600 the following day and is being inspected. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch is aware of the incident and will undertake an investigation in due course.**

**Ministers were quickly made aware of the incident involving the MV Pentalina and kept informed of developments throughout.**

**Shortly after the incident, Northlink Ferries proactively contacted key freight users likely to be impacted by the outage of the Pentland Ferries service to ensure that essential goods could be delivered to the island – such as goods for key supermarkets.**

**It is too early to say whether or not it would be appropriate to consider the return of the MV Alfred – and of course there are contractual and commercial considerations to factor into this - although the priority is looking at making sure adequate capacity can be delivered.**

**Northlink move to their peak summer timetable this week and that will of course see more capacity on the route with a return to 3 sailings a day. Transport Scotland has already held discussions with Northlink on the**

possibility of increasing capacity further through this route (4 sailings a day) or its passenger and freight services from Aberdeen.

Scottish Government resilience teams were also closely involved in discussions with local resilience partnerships in Orkney.

We were relieved that all passengers and crew are safe and that arrangements were made to support passengers with onward travel.

The Minister for Transport has written to those involved to express appreciation, including RNLI crews and other emergency services. And of course the crew of the vessel itself.

We are working with key partners, including Orkney Islands Council and Northlink Ferries to consider what steps are needed to maintain adequate capacity to Orkney – this will depend on the length of time the MV Pentalina is likely to be out of service. Currently these are cancelled until at least 3 May.

Links to further information (if applicable)	
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Name of Official: [redacted]	Extension Number: [redacted]
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## Appendix J - Excerpt from FMQ brief 10 May 2023

**09 May:** [Various] Daily Express reported “Islands betrayed by ferry failure”. The Scottish Government has once again come under fire over ferries after it was revealed that an Orkney route will be disrupted for at least another fortnight,

The Sun reported “Ferries a 'national scandal’”. The failure to deliver new ferries for islanders was last night branded a "national scandal".

**06 May:** BBC news reported, “A new delay has prevented a chartered catamaran ferry from entering service with CalMac” – regarding the MV Alfred.

**01 May:** Various media reports, including The Herald, “All passengers safe and well on land after ferry runs aground off Orkney” and Press and Journal, “Probe under way following 'major' incident on ferry”.

**29 Apr:** MV Pentalina ran aground on Sat 29 April. All crew and passengers were safe. The vessel is owned and operated by Pentland Ferries.

### **MV PENTALINA – PENTLAND FERRIES**

**I understand that the MV Pentalina had reported a suspected engine fire and had become grounded near to the berth in St Margaret’s Hope where the RNLi attended and all passengers were safely removed to shore.**

- Ministers were quickly made aware of the incident and kept informed of developments throughout by Scottish Government resilience teams, who were also closely involved in discussions with local resilience partnerships in Orkney.
- Pentland Ferries have currently advised that services are cancelled until at least 21 May. The Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA) is conducting a survey.
- The option of increasing Northlink Sailings remains under review.
- There has been no request to return the MV Alfred and there is no clause in the commercial arrangement to enable this. We will carefully consider all options once we understand the length of any outage.

### **Appendix K – Excerpt from Letter sent to First Minister from Orkney Islands Council Leader, Councillor [redacted] regarding ferry provision and funding.**

The recent grounding of the MV Pentalina has heightened the concerns of the local community that catastrophic and tragic loss as a consequence of underinvestment in new vessels is a very real risk – and that ferry services to and from Orkney as well as between the Islands of Orkney are being viewed nationally as of little importance despite their vital role as lifeline services serving our communities.

I raised these concerns with then Transport Minister, Jenny Gilruth MSP on 21 March 2023, when I highlighted that Transport Scotland had seen fit to charter the MV Alfred and therefore remove one of the most modern vessels from serving Orkney to be replaced by a vessel with questionable reliability, that had previously been retired in 2019. Unfortunately, the concerns I raised at that time have been realised and the St Margaret’s Hope to Gills Bay service is now suspended for the foreseeable future. The incident that led to the suspension of these services could have been much worse had the weather been less favourable, or if the vessel had broken down and started taking on water elsewhere in the Pentland Firth and I am greatly relieved that this did not happen.

## Appendix L - Excerpt from Net Zero & Just Transition Portfolio Briefing – Public Services and Economy Ministerial Group – 17th May 2023

### Key challenges

- **Ferries** – The recent grounding of the MV Pentalina, servicing Orkney, further compounds the impact of wider ferry service disruption across our island communities. It will have exacerbated the views of some islanders who recently lost the MV Alfred when it was chartered to assist CalMac routes in the West. The lack of an operating vessel on this crossing will mean islanders will either revert to Northlink ferries on the Pentland Firth route, or travel via Aberdeen, or cancel travel plans. Queries may arise regarding the freight and overall capacity that was previously carried on Pentland Ferries and the ability of Northlink to cope with the increase.

## Appendix M – Excerpt from – Local Authorities ferries – Update for FM

Cllr [redacted], leader of OIC, recently wrote to a number of Ministers to raise concerns about pace of this work and also to highlight issues about the privately owned MV Pentalina grounding recently.

## Appendix N - Additional NorthLink Pentland Firth sailings

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 12:03 PM

**To:** Minister for Transport <MinisterforT@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Roddy Macdonald <Roddy.Macdonald@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot; [redacted]

@transport.gov.scot; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot; Chief Executive Transport Scotland

<ceo@transport.gov.scot>; TS Resilience Mailbox <tsresilience@transport.gov.scot>; SGoRR

Information <SGoRRInformation@gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Media

<DLECONPTSM@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot; [redacted]

@transport.gov.scot; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot; DG Net

Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero & Just Transition

<CabSecNZJT@gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot

**Subject:** Additional NorthLink Pentland Firth sailings

PO,

Could you please make the Minister aware of NorthLink's resilience plans for Pentland Firth sailings in response to MV Pentalina's technical issue.

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Contract Manager

Ferries Directorate

Transport Scotland

[redacted]

## ATTACHMENT TO EMAIL

### Minister For Transport

This is to advise the Minister that TS have agreed to NorthLink's recommendation to increase sailings across the Pentland Firth to 3 return sailings on a Sunday while Pentland Ferries' services are suspended.

### Background

**Unconfirmed reports** indicate that the MV Pentalina is expected to be out of service for several weeks.

NorthLink moved to their summer timetable on 1 May, which increased sailings across the Pentland Firth from two to three return sailings per day, except on Sundays, when two return sailings operate. NorthLink have advised they are able to operate three return sailings every day from this Sunday, 7 May until the end of June. This period covers the Orkney Folk festival, school holidays over the last weekend of May and the St. Magnus Festival starting 16 June.

They will monitor demand closely and are also preparing a plan to operate 4 return sailings per day should the need arise. There are also a range of Aberdeen freight considerations that could provide additional car space into the Aberdeen/Kirkwall/Lerwick schedule by moving freight vehicles from the passenger ferries onto the freighter vessels, where possible.

[redacted]

An unavoidable consequence of this proposal will be the cancellation of the RSPB/Nature Festival Cruise around Hoy on Sunday 14 May. However, NorthLink will manage this and communicate appropriately that the cancellation is to ensure the resilience of Orkney's accessibility on the Pentland Firth.

[redacted]

[redacted]

### **Appendix 0 – Excerpt from TS/SNF Weekly Ops Call 2nd May**

- Following the technical incident with MV Pentalina, SNF have had an increase in bookings for MV Hamnavoe. SNF have contacted Pentland Ferries but were given no information on PF's projected volumes, making it difficult to assess if current services will be sufficient. SNF will monitor and discuss with officials.
- SNF have been working with some PF freight customers to help get supplies to Orkney, although other hauliers have not taken up this offer.
- Freight vessel will operate an additional Aberdeen – Kirkwall sailing tonight (Tuesday), this was pre-planned and not due to the Pentland Ferries incident.

## Appendix P – Letter of thanks from Minister for transport

Minister for Transport  
Kevin Stewart MSP



T: 0300 244 4000  
E: ministerfort@gov.scot

30 April 2023

Dear

Following the incident involving the MV Pentalina on the evening of 29 April 2023, as she approached St Margaret's Hope in Stromness, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank all those who played an important role in responding to the emergency call. And for the local care and support quickly arranged for passengers as they were transported from the vessel to shore.

It is a great credit to everyone involved that such a difficult situation was dealt with in such a professional and expedient manner.

I would therefore be grateful if you could share this accordingly.

Yours Sincerely

«Signature»

## Appendix Q – Letter to Transport Minister from RMT GS

**From:** [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>

**Sent:** Friday, May 5, 2023 5:44 PM

**To:** Minister for Transport <MinisterforT@gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Roddy Macdonald <Roddy.Macdonald@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot[redacted] @transport.gov.scot>

**Cc:** TS Corporate Correspondence Support Team <TSS@transport.gov.scot>; Leanne Dobson <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Letter to Transport Minister from RMT GS

Hi [redacted]

View from [redacted] and me would be, on balance, to decline a meeting on the immediate issue of concerns about the safety of the Pentalina as that is primarily for MCA/MAIB and the vessel operator (on a route outwith the contractual responsibility of Scottish Ministers).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the letter is on longer term ferries strategy on which we would point to the next routine STUC/TUs meeting – we would welcome that opportunity as part of our engagement on future strategy (Islands Connectivity Plan) and would prefer to have that discussion with all the recognised trades unions present.

Hope that helps.  
[redacted]

[redacted]  
Ferries Strategy  
Transport Scotland  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Transport  
**Sent:** 02 May 2023 18:50  
**To:** [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; Roddy Macdonald <Roddy.Macdonald@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>  
**Cc:** TS Corporate Correspondence Support Team <TSS@transport.gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterforT@gov.scot>; Leanne Dobson <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to Transport Minister from RMT GS

Hi all,

Please see attached from the RMT.

Grateful for advice on whether the Minister should hold a meeting?

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Private Secretary to the Minister for Transport  
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG  
MinisterforT@gov.scot | [redacted]

**From:** Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 02 May 2023 18:26  
**To:** TS Corporate Correspondence Support Team <TSS@transport.gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Minister for Transport <MinisterforT@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to Transport Minister from RMT GS

Hello

Please see for MiCase. PO, for awareness.

Thanks



[redacted] Public Engagement Unit  
[CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot](mailto:CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted] @rmt.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 02 May 2023 13:05  
**To:** Scottish Ministers <Scottish\_Ministers@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted] @rmt.org.uk>; [redacted] @transport.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Letter to Transport Minister from RMT GS

Good afternoon

Please find attached a letter from RMT General Secretary, Mick Lynch to the Transport Minister, Kevin Stewart MSP seeking an urgent meeting between the Minister and the RMT on issues affecting our ferry members in Scotland.

Regards

[redacted]  
RMT National Policy Officer  
T [redacted]  
M [redacted]

#### ATTACHMENT TO EMAIL

Kevin Stewart MSP  
Minister for Transport  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023

Our ref: S2/3/23

Dear Mr Stewart

#### **Grounding of Pentland Ferries' *Pentalina***

I am writing to request an urgent meeting with you and your officials to discuss the implications for passengers and workers of the latest safety incident involving a catamaran owned by Pentland Ferries.

As you know, over the Bank Holiday weekend, the *Pentalina* grounded off the Orkney Islands and experienced an engine room fire. All 60 passengers and some crew members were safely transferred to RNLi vessels. I pay tribute to the bravery and professionalism of the crew who successfully extinguished the engine room fire and returned the beleaguered vessel to port at St. Margaret's Hope.

You will also be aware that the *Pentalina* was brought back into service in the Pentland Firth following the Scottish Government approved decision to time charter of Pentland Ferries other vessel, the *Alfred* for £9m to provide relief on specific Clyde and Hebrides routes. The *Pentalina* has a recent history of safety issues and the *Alfred* is subject to an ongoing

Maritime Accident Investigation Branch investigation after it grounded off Swona in July last year, injuring six passengers.

The root causes of this potentially catastrophic lack of resilience on Scotland's public and private ferry services, are the Ferguson Marine fiasco and the lack of a coherent ferries plan. We are now at a stage where the Northern Isles as well as the island communities and local economies in the west of Scotland are also forced to live with fragile resilience and restricted capacity on their ferry services just as the summer timetables hit full swing.

RMT is committed to working to resolve these issues, which are affecting our 1,200 members at Pentland Ferries, CalMac Ferries and NorthLink to an intolerable extent. As such, we ask that you meet with RMT officials, as a matter of urgency to discuss how we resolve this crisis.

I look forward to your early reply.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Lynch', followed by a period.

**Michael Lynch**  
**General Secretary**

## **Annex B**

### **Appendix R – note from Minister for Transport to First Minister, Deputy First Minister, and Cab Secs NZJT and Finance. Referred to on**

**First Minister,  
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance,  
Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Just Transition,**

Given the events yesterday I thought it might be helpful to provide you with some detailed background on the issue regarding the MV Pentalina.

I also wanted to set out the ongoing engagements and interventions I will be making along with my officials in Transport Scotland to ensure lifeline services are maintained.

#### **MV PENTALINA**

Pentland Ferries is a private operator providing ferry services across the Pentland Firth between Gills Bay, Caithness to St Margaret's Hope, Orkney. Pentland own 2 vessels, the MV Alfred and the MV Pentalina.

Transport Scotland were notified last night (Sat 29 April) that the MV Pentalina had reported a suspected engine fire and had become grounded just near to the berth in St Margaret's Hope.

I was quickly made aware of the incident involving the vessel and kept informed of developments throughout by Scottish Government resilience teams, who were also closely involved in discussions with local resilience partnerships in Orkney.

RNLI attended and all passengers were safely removed to shore. The vessel is currently berthed at St Margaret's Hope. Pentland Ferries have currently advised that services are cancelled until 3 May

Maritime Safety is a matter reserved to the UK Government through the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. It will be for the UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch to confirm the process and take forward an investigation into this incident.

#### **MV ALFRED**

Scottish Ministers have provided funding to CalMac Ferries to enable the charter of the MV Alfred to provide additional resilience for a 9 Month period. The vessel began a nine-month charter with CalMac on 27 April.

The terms and conditions of the charter are a commercial matter between CalMac and Pentland Ferries. There is no recall clause within the terms of the contract which was a commercial decision by Pentland Ferries as part of its discussions with CalMac – please note this is not in the public domain. CalMac have reached out to Pentland Ferries. It is too early to say whether or not it would be appropriate to consider the return of the MV Alfred – and of course there are contractual and commercial considerations to factor into this - although the priority is looking at making sure adequate capacity can be delivered.

CalMac is currently undertaking berthing trials with MV Alfred, as the vessel has never operated or completed berthing trials on any of their routes, berthing trials are required before she commences

service and will allow deployment plans to be confirmed as soon as these have been completed. The vessel has successfully berthed at Ullapool, Lochmaddy and Port Askaig and Brodick (although some ramp modifications will be necessary).

Further ports expected to be visited by MV Alfred over the coming week to conduct these trials include Campbeltown, Ardrossan and Troon. The vessel will also conduct trials at Ayr harbour to determine suitability as a lay by berth. The vessel available for service following these trials.

The decision to offer the MV Alfred for charter rather than MV Pentalina was taken by Pentland Ferries as a commercial company.

It is crewed and operated by Pentland Ferries under a Time Charter. Terms and conditions for crews are a matter for them as the operators, but CalMac confirms they are receiving the Living Wage.

## **ENGAGEMENT**

Shortly after the incident, NorthLink Ferries proactively contacted key freight users likely to be impacted by the outage of the Pentland Ferries service to ensure that essential goods could be delivered to the island – such as supermarket goods.

NorthLink move to their peak summer timetable this week and that will of course see more capacity on the route with a return to 3 sailings a day. Transport Scotland has already held discussions with NorthLink on the possibility of increasing capacity further through this route or its passenger and freight services from Aberdeen.

As you would expect I, and officials are continuing to work with key partners, including Orkney Islands Council, and I spoke direct today with elected officials. I will also continue to engage with NorthLink Ferries to consider what steps are needed to maintain adequate capacity to Orkney – this will depend on the length of time the MV Pentalina is likely to be out of service.

## **Appendix S - Comms Plan for Pentalina Charter. Attachment referred to in email of 3 February 2023 as part of FOI 202300354882 response**

### **1. Internal Comms**

#### **Welcoming MV Pentalina on a 12-month charter**

I am delighted to inform you that MV Pentalina will soon be joining the CalMac fleet on a 12-month charter to improve resilience across our network.

Funded by Transport Scotland, the vessel will be on lease from Pentland Ferries - who will be responsible for delivery of the service on behalf of CalMac, maintenance of the vessel, and provision of crew throughout the charter period.

Pentland Ferries expect MV Pentalina to be ready for service from Tuesday 7 March 2023 and we are currently working on deployment plans from this date.

#### **Deployment of MV Pentalina**

The resilience MV Pentalina offers to the network is very much welcomed. However, the vessel will not be able to operate to several of our existing ports or deliver timetabled services due to her design and capability. Sea trials were undertaken in 2021 on some routes – including successfully on Islay and Arran - and we intend to carry out further trials once we have the vessel on charter.

MV Pentalina will primarily be used for resilience purposes, covering periods when a vessel is unavailable. She may also provide additional freight sailings on key routes when not required for disruption cover. We will be engaging with network community representatives over the next four weeks to ensure the vessel is best placed to improve resilience across the network.

Customers and communities will be kept informed as plans progress and more information will be available on our website.

Thanks to those colleagues who have been involved in securing this charter, which I hope will provide our colleagues, customers, and communities some reassurance for the busy year ahead.

Thank you for your support.

Robbie

## 2. Stakeholder

**[Any email messaging sent to stakeholders or key messages verbally captured here so we have full transparency of what has been communicated to any stakeholders]**

I am writing to inform you that MV Pentalina is expected to join the CalMac fleet on Tuesday 7 March 2023 on a 12-month charter.

Funded by Transport Scotland, the vessel will be on lease from Pentland Ferries - who will be responsible for delivery of the service on behalf of CalMac, the maintenance of the vessel, and provision of crew throughout the charter period.

While MV Pentalina will primarily be used for resilience purposes - covering periods when a vessel is unavailable - she may also provide additional freight sailings on key routes when not required for disruption cover. We will be engaging with network community representatives over the next four weeks to ensure the vessel is best placed to improve resilience across the network.

Customers and communities will be kept informed as plans progress and more information will be available on our website.

The resilience MV Pentalina offers to the network is very much welcomed. However, the vessel will not be able to operate to several of our existing ports or deliver timetabled services due to her design and capability. Sea trials were undertaken in 2021 on some routes – including successfully on Islay and Arran - and we intend to carry out further trials once we have the vessel on charter.

**Union messaging – will be sent by [redacted]**

We wanted to make you aware of the Transport Minister's announcement that MV Pentalina is to join the CalMac fleet for a year.

CalMac is leasing the vessel from owner Pentland Ferries after funding was provided by Transport Scotland. We expect Pentalina will join the CalMac fleet on 6 March 2023 on a 12-month time

charter. This is an interim measure to provide resilience and support until the new vessels are introduced to the fleet.

Pentland Ferries will deliver services on behalf of CalMac, with MV Pentalina providing support where needed across the network. She will primarily be used for resilience purposes to cover periods when a vessel is unavailable. She may also provide additional, non-bookable freight sailings when not required for disruption cover.

As you may be aware, MV Pentalina will not be able to operate to several ports or deliver existing timetables, but she can assist on a number of routes, including Islay and Arran. Additionally, having this extra vessel will help support the rest of the fleet during times of annual maintenance or disruption. Sea trials were undertaken with MV Pentalina during 2021 on some routes and we intend to carry out further trials once we have the vessel on charter.

As it's a time charter, Pentland Ferries will be responsible for delivery of the service, providing crew and completing maintenance on MV Pentalina throughout the charter period. As CalMac are an accredited living wage employer, we have ensured that all Pentland Ferries crew are paid this as a minimum. We understand there may be questions and concerns regarding the charter and are happy to respond to these. However, we would highlight that terms and conditions under which the owners' Crew are employed are a matter for the owner and not something we can comment on.

### [3. Website – Homepage - FAQs – Customer Update –](#)

#### [Homepage \(if required\)](#)

We warmly welcome the news that MV Pentalina will join our fleet on a year's charter. It's expected she will be ready for service from 7 March 2023. Read full details in our customer update.

#### [Customer update – MV Pentalina chartered as relief vessel for one year](#)

Following confirmation from the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland, we warmly welcome the news that MV Pentalina will soon join the Caledonian MacBrayne fleet on a year's charter to improve resilience on the network.

The vessel will be leased from Pentland Ferries who will operate services on behalf of Caledonian MacBrayne. It is expected she will be ready for service from 7 March 2023. You can find further detail below in our FAQs.

#### [Website FAQs](#)

##### **What routes can MV Pentalina operate on?**

MV Pentalina will primarily be used for resilience purposes, covering periods when a vessel is unavailable. The vessel will not be able to operate to some of our existing ports or deliver timetabled services due to her design and capabilities. As the vessel operates 'single ended' - a minimum turnaround time of 45 minutes is also required.

Trials previously carried out show that she can be operated on the Arran and Islay routes – and she will undertake further trials when she's first available to do so. Further information on her deployment will be published once we have completed these trials. We will also be engaging with community representatives from the network over the next four weeks to ensure the vessel is best placed to improve resilience.

**Will MV Pentalina be operated by Caledonian MacBrayne crew or Pentland Ferries?**

All crew will be provided by Pentland Ferries who will be responsible for delivery of service and maintenance of the vessel.

**What food and drink offer will be available on board MV Pentalina?**

The vessel is being operated by Pentland Ferries, and unfortunately, there will be no food and drink offer available.

**4. Social post – linking to customer update****Twitter**

Following confirmation from the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland, we're pleased to confirm that MV Pentalina will join our fleet on a year's charter from early March 2023. Full details in our customer update: [LINK](#)

**Facebook**

Following confirmation from the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland, we're pleased to confirm that MV Pentalina will join our fleet as a relief vessel on a year's charter from early March 2023.

Please read our customer update for full details: [LINK](#)

**5. Media Statement/Press Release****MV Pentalina to join CalMac network on 12-month charter**

CalMac's Chief Executive has welcomed the announcement by the Transport Minister that MV Pentalina is to join the fleet on a year's charter.

CalMac is leasing the vessel from owner Pentland Ferries after funding was provided by Transport Scotland. We expect to welcome MV Pentalina into service from Tuesday 7 March subject to Pentland Ferries having the vessel ready for service and approval has been given by the MCA (Maritime and Coastguard Agency).

MV Pentalina will primarily be used for resilience purposes, covering periods when a vessel is unavailable. She may also provide additional freight sailings on key routes when not required for disruption cover. We will be engaging with network community representatives over the next four weeks to ensure the vessel is best placed to improve resilience across the network.

Customers and communities will be kept informed as plans progress and more information will be available on our website.

Pentland Ferries will deliver services on behalf of CalMac, with MV Pentalina providing support where needed across the network. She will primarily be used for resilience purposes to cover periods when a vessel is unavailable. She may also provide additional, non-bookable freight sailings when not required for disruption cover. We will engage with communities on deployment plans over the coming days.

MV Pentalina will not be able to operate to several ports or deliver timetabled services, but she can assist on a number of routes, including Islay and Arran. Sea trials were undertaken with MV Pentalina during 2021 on some routes and further trials will be carried out once the vessel is on charter.

Pentland Ferries will be responsible for delivery of the service on behalf of CalMac and will provide crew and maintenance on MV Pentalina throughout the charter period.

Robbie Drummond, CalMac's Chief Executive, said: "We are delighted that MV Pentalina will be joining the CalMac fleet, her addition will provide much-needed resilience.

"While her design means that she can only operate to some ports, having this extra vessel will help support the rest of the fleet during times of annual maintenance or disruption."

#### Editor's note

- MV Pentalina has a carrying capacity of 56 PCUs and 237/94 passengers
- All deployment options require some form of ramp modifications
- Vessel is 'single-ended', so a minimum turnaround time of approximately 45 minutes is needed
- The vessel owner/operator, Pentland Ferries, will be responsible for delivery of the service, maintenance of the vessel, and provision of crew.
- No retail offering onboard
- Normally based at Campbeltown to avoid disruption at already constrained ports and allowing easy repositioning
- While MV Pentalina has similar vehicle carrying capacity to MV Isle of Arran and MV Hebridean Isles, the capacity offered would be reduced due to increased turnaround times, passage times and additionally the limitation of a 13-hour operating day