

1. Letter received 20 May 2022 from Mick Lynch to the Minister for Transport (MfT)

Jenny Gilruth MSP
Minister for Transport
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

By email to: MinisterFT@gov.scot

20.05.22

Dear Ms Gilruth,

Violence and abusive behaviour on the Scottish rail network

I am writing in relation to your recent confirmation, in response to Parliamentary Question S6W-07661 that the Scottish Government is holding discussions regarding the possibility of creating a new offence regarding the threatening or abuse of railway workers.

RMT welcomes your commitment that trade unions would be consulted in this process. RMT has longstanding concerns around the prevalence of violence and abuse on the rail network and we would be pleased to work with the Scottish Government to progress this.

We believe therefore believe there is significant merit in RMT representatives meeting with you to discuss these issues in more detail, and I would be grateful if you could advise of your availability at the earliest opportunity.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Michael Lynch
General Secretary

2. In separate attachment – letter received from Mick Lynch to the MfT dated 20 June 2023

3. Email received from Mick Lynch to the MfT dated 29 June 2023

From: [REDACTED]@rmt.org.uk>

Sent: 29 June 2023 16:00

To: Hyslop F (Fiona), MSP <Fiona.Hyslop.msp@parliament.scot

Subject: Update from the RMT on the UK Government's plans for ticket office closures

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Ms Fiona Hyslop MSP
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Ms Hyslop

You may be aware that for the past year, the RMT has been campaigning to oppose the UK Government and train companies' plans for wholesale ticket office closures in England.

We now believe that the UK Government has recently instructed the train companies it controls to bring forward their specific proposals for ticket office closures for public consultation, and that this could happen imminently.

The Welsh and Scottish Governments which control the TfW and ScotRail franchises are not currently proposing ticket office closures. There are ticket offices at Edinburgh Waverley and Glasgow Queen Street which are managed by LNER and Avanti West Coast. We do not know for certain at this stage whether these would be affected, but it is likely that the train companies will seek to close all of their ticket offices. Of course, the closure of all ticket offices in England would have a significant impact on passengers travelling by rail to and from Scotland.

RMT is completely opposed to ticket office closures which we believe will worsen passenger safety, security, accessibility and service, and will lead to mass de-staffing of railway stations.

You can find RMT's briefing for MSPs [here](#) which includes actions you can take now to help protect ticket offices.

We will write to you again when the public consultations go live, and in the meantime, please do let us know if you have any questions.

Yours Sincerely,



Mick Lynch
General Secretary

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4. Letter received from Mick Lynch to the First Minister:

From: [REDACTED]@rmt.org.uk>
Sent: 18 May 2023 14:40
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Subject: Invitation to Launch of Scottish Ferries Report

Dear First Minister

RMT Launch of report on lifeline Scottish Ferries by Professor Jeanette Findlay of Glasgow University

As General Secretary of RMT, Scotland's largest ferries union I write to invite you to the launch in the Scottish Parliament of a report by Professor Jeanette Findlay of the Adam Smith Business School at Glasgow University on the future financing and delivery of lifeline Scottish ferries.

The report will be launched **Tuesday 13th June 2023, Scottish Parliament Committee Room 6, 1730-1930.** Food and refreshment will be provided.

Professor Findlay's work, commissioned by the RMT, is a critique of the controversial 'Project Neptune' report on ferry governance by Ernst & Young for

Transport Scotland. The findings are a stark reminder of the clear public interest in retaining CalMac ferry services in the public sector, in the face of a resurgent privatisation lobby exploiting the Ferguson Marine fiasco and legitimate passenger concerns.

Public ferries in Scotland are in crisis, with the procurement failure on the Clyde and Hebrides contract now affecting services and staff on the Northern Isles contract. Ageing ships, fragile resilience, overworked ferry staff and activist private interests mean that lifeline ferry services for island and mainland communities are at the top of the in-tray for the new First Minister, Humza Yousaf MSP and his new Transport Minister, Kevin Stewart MSP.

I hope you can join us and I look forward to meeting you at the launch of this important report.

Yours sincerely



Mick Lynch
RMT General Secretary

5. [Letter received from Mick Lynch to the MfT dated 2 May 2023.](#)

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

2nd 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



Michael Lynch
General Secretary

6. [Letter received from Mick Lynch to the MfT dated 21 March 2023](#)

Jenny Gilruth MSP
Minister for Transport
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

21st March 2023

Our ref: S2/3/23

Dear Jenny

CalMac time charter of *MV Alfred* catamaran from Pentland Ferries

I am writing to request an urgent meeting to discuss RMT's serious and urgent concern over the impact of CalMac's time charter of the *MV Alfred* from Pentland Ferries on collectively bargained employment conditions and industrial relations on the Clyde and Hebrides network.

We were informed of this contract by press release and have written to CalMac raising our concern over the complete contempt with which our members have been treated. Having had a prompt reply from CalMac CEO Robbie Drummond, we now seek an urgent meeting with you and Transport Scotland officials on this matter.

In our view, commercial confidentiality is absolutely no defence for engaging in chartering practices which undermine the terms and conditions of employment for CalMac staff, their trade union rights and your Government's Fair Work Action Plan.

RMT fully support efforts to increase the resilience of CalMac services but it is deeply disappointing that ministers and officials chose not to give the trade unions advance notice of this imminent charter agreement with an anti-trade union employer, despite having ample time in which to do so, including through the STUC.

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

7. Letter received from Mick Lynch to the MfT dated 14 June 2023

Fiona Hyslop MSP
Minister for Transport
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

14th June 2023

Our ref: S2/3/23

Dear Fiona

I write to welcome you to your post as Transport Minister in the Scottish Government. I have no doubt that ferry services on the Clyde and Hebrides contract with CalMac are at the top of your in-tray and it is that crisis which I am writing to you about, to request that you meet, urgently, the RMT and a cross party delegation of MSPs to propose solutions to the chronic problems that have beset these lifeline services and which are making my members' working lives a misery.

As you may be aware, RMT hosted an event in the Scottish Parliament yesterday to discuss a new report by Professor Jeanette Findlay and her team from University of

Glasgow into the financing of lifeline ferry services. All political parties represented in Holyrood were present – SNP, Scottish Labour, Scottish Greens, Scottish Lib Dems and the Scottish Conservatives.

The debate covered the broad range of factors which have got us to where we are today. Our discussion revealed a clear political consensus to fix CalMac's problems now, for the sake of passengers and workers on a non-partisan basis and not to wait, fingers crossed that things don't get any worse. That would be an untenable position, given the risk that the lack of resilience poses to the viability of island communities which depend on the reliable delivery of lifeline ferry services.

I hope that you can commit to this urgent summit meeting. We will not agree on everything but I strongly believe that we need to work together in the interests of workers and passengers in CalMac communities to arrest the spiral of decline which has set in and poses grave dangers to the stability of services, jobs, businesses and communities in the west of Scotland.

Yours sincerely



Michael Lynch
General Secretary

8. Briefing for MfT for meeting with Mick Lynch in London

From: [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>

Sent: 29 November 2022 23:02

To: Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>;

[REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>;

[REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>

Cc: Brown F (Fiona) (TS) <Fiona.Brown@transport.gov.scot>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Gillies H (Hugh)

<Hugh.Gillies@transport.gov.scot>; Greig S (Stuart)

<Stuart.Greig@transport.gov.scot>; Leggett S (Stewart)

<Stewart.Leggett@transport.gov.scot>; Pacitti F (Frances)

<Frances.Pacitti@transport.gov.scot>; Reeve W (Bill)

<Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>; Shackman L (Lawrence)

<Lawrence.Shackman@transport.gov.scot>; Sizeland B (Bettina)

<Bettina.Sizeland@transport.gov.scot>; Twyman K (Kerry)

<Kerry.Twyman@transport.gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland

<media@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>;

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 [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>;
 [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>;
 [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>;
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 [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>;
 [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>; Cabinet
 Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Briefing - Minister's Visit to London

[REDACTED], with thanks to colleagues please find attached briefing for Ms Gilruth's meeting tomorrow morning with Mick Lynch

[REDACTED]

Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF



Transport Scotland, the national transport agency
 Còmhdhail Alba, buidheann nàiseanta na còmhdhail

What	<i>Opportunity to engage with General Secretary of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT)</i>
Where	<i>Scotland House</i>
When	<i>30 November 2022 09:00 – 09:45</i>
Who	<i>Mick Lynch, General Secretary of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT)</i>
Why	<i>Acknowledge that RMT members in Scotland have reached a deal with ScotRail on the pay offer An opportunity to discuss wider industrial relations issues in rail affecting services in Scotland.</i>
Supporting official	<i>Michelle Quinn – [redacted] Rail tbc</i>
Briefing contents	Annex C: Biography of Mick Lynch

BIOGRAPHY



Michael Lynch (born January 1962) is a British trade unionist. He has served as the General Secretary of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT) since May 2021. He grew up in the Paddington area of London in what he described as a "rent room" in what would now be called a slum. He left school at the age of 16 and qualified as an electrician, then worked in construction before being illegally blacklisted for joining a union

In 1993, unable to find any more work in construction, he began working for Eurostar, and became active in the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT). Twenty years later, he received a settlement for the illegal blacklisting. In 2016 Lynch supported Brexit and later justified his decision.

[REDACTED s.30(b)(i)]