

From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot])>
Sent: 22 March 2022 16:03
To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot])>
Subject: RE: do you want to take a quick look at this before I put to Mo?

Safeguarding the future of Ferguson Marine and delivering island ferries

Economy Secretary Kate Forbes has said the Scottish Government's actions to protect Ferguson Marine from closure saved two lifeline vessels, secured a viable future for commercial shipbuilding on the Clyde and protected over 300 jobs.

Commenting on an Audit Scotland report, Ms Forbes said despite a number of well-known challenges – many of which were a direct result of decisions taken by the previous owners – the decision to rescue Ferguson Marine was the right one.

Ms Forbes also reiterated the Scottish Government's commitment to commercial shipbuilding on the Clyde and added that the Scottish Government has made it clear to Fergusons that the vessels must be completed as soon as possible.

Ms Forbes said:

“The decision taken to safeguard the future of Ferguson Marine was the right one. Not only did our efforts save the last commercial shipyard on the Clyde from closure, we directly rescued more than 300 jobs and ensured that the two vessels – which are vital for our island communities – will be delivered.

“There is no doubt that getting the vessels completed has been extremely challenging but let me be absolutely clear, these vessels must be delivered as soon as possible. There can be no ifs or buts when it comes to lifeline services for our island communities. I have made that expectation absolutely clear to the Ferguson Marine leadership and Board and we will continue to work closely with the yard to ensure the vessels enter service as soon as possible.

“The procurement process for vessels 801 and 802 was undertaken thoroughly, in good faith and following appropriate due diligence, and suggestions to the contrary are wrong.

“Ferguson Marine continues to evolve and with the appointment of a new, permanent CEO earlier this year, we are entering a new era of shipbuilding on the Clyde. Significant progress is being made and Ferguson Marine is back to being a serious contender for future vessel contracts.”

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

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From: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot])>

Sent: 22 March 2022 15:52

To: [redacted (s38(1)(b))][@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted (s38(1)(b))@gov.scot])>

Subject: do you want to take a quick look at this before I put to Mo?

Not sure the preamble is quite right but trying to cover responding to both the report and the FMPG update. Quote is taken from the statement.

[redacted (s38(1)(b))]

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