

## **Visit to Isle of Rum by Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity**

### **Top Line**

The Minister's visit was to engage with the local community on Rum. The arrangements made were to maximise the time available on the island to do that. Using CalMac services would have limited time on the island to less than three hours.

### **Purpose of Visit**

To engage with the local community on the future of Kinloch Castle and wider governance/ needs/ aspirations of the local community – one of Scotland's smallest and most fragile island communities.

The visit was arranged at the Minister's request following a request from the Isle of Rum Community Trust (IRCT) to engage on next steps following the decision of Mr Jeremy Hoskins to withdraw his offer to buy and restore Kinloch Castle (the proposals raised a number of concerns and lacked the full backing of the local community).

The trip facilitated meetings with islanders, the Rum Community Association and members of the Isle of Rum Community Trust (IRCT).

### **Travel Arrangements**

Travel to Rum can be challenging. The Minister had a short time window to make the visit and after reviewing scheduled ferry timetables it was decided that use of a local small operator 'Western Isle Cruises' would make the best use of time on the island and provide support to a small local business.

The earliest the Minister could have arrived using scheduled sailings would have been 14:10, with the latest departure from the island at 17:20. Using a local provider has enabled the Minister to spend over five hours on the island (a. 09:30 and d. 14:30).

To make best use of time, the Minister held a number of engagements at Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park while travelling to Mallaig.

### **Costs**

We understand from NatureScot that the cost of the hire was £1200 – 8 people were on the crossing including some islanders as well as the Minister and officials from NatureScot and SG.

### **Local Support**

The hire was operated by Western Isle Cruises – a small local business that specialises in wildlife tours/charters – it also operates the Knoydart Ferry Service and school contract from Eigg, Muck & Rum to Mallaig.

### **Ferry Timetable**

[Small Isles: Mallaig - Eigg - Muck - Rum - Canna | CalMac Ferries](#)