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Edward Mountain  
Convenor  
Net Zero, Energy & Transport Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
EH99 1SO

30 September 2024

Dear Mr Mountain,

**Update on New Vessels for Islay & Little Minch. MV Isle of Islay (NB1092), MV Loch Indaal (NB1093), MV Lochmor (NB1100) and MV Claymore (NB1101)**

We reported the movement in the delivery date for MV Isle of Islay (NB1092) in our 08 August 2024 update to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee. We can report that good progress has been made with the propulsion machinery commissioning activities on the vessel; each of the four main engines/generators have been tested at full load with the vessel alongside at the quay in the shipyard, the harbour acceptance trials have been carried out for the bow thrusters and emergency generator. Service engineers from the main propulsor supplier are on site for pre-commissioning checks on the propulsors.

The further assessment of the impacts of the supply chain issues out with the shipyards control, related specialist contractor availability, and review of required approvals processes indicates delivery of the first vessel, MV Isle of Islay, beyond the end of December 2024. Comparison of the original programme and the current completion estimates suggest that the delivery date will be extended by 4 months from the original scheduled date of mid-October 2024. There are risks and uncertainties, particularly with specialist equipment supply chains, which may shorten or extend this timeframe by a matter weeks. Many of the same factors will also lead to a change in the delivery dates to the later vessels, but these are not expected to be as significant as on the first vessel.

The overall costs of delivering the four vessels, including CMAL and CalMac costs, remain largely on track but a further risk allowance of around 3% is being applied for budgeting purposes until such time as final costs can be reconciled.

We continue to work closely with Transport Scotland and CalMac to consider the service implications of the extended delivery dates and plan accordingly for revised entry in to service dates. At present we do not envisage the delivery of the MV Isle of Islay and future vessels having a significant impact on the deployment and cascade plan. We are disappointed to be reporting the change in delivery dates, but can assure the Committee that we are taking all



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reasonable steps to work with the yard and wider project partners to minimise and mitigate the impacts.

With the challenges previously reported and with current activities and progress we expect that the Vessels will be completed during the following periods:

- MV Isle of Islay: Q1/2025
- MV Loch Indaal Q2/2025
- NB1100 (MV Lochmor): Q3/2025
- NB1101 (MV Claymore): Q4/2025

The team at Cemre and our site personnel are working every day to make maximum progress towards ultimate delivery. They are working actively to outfit, test, trial, survey and complete the vessels as early as possible. NB1100 and NB1101 will reach the readiness for launch milestone in October and December 2024, respectively. We will update communities and stakeholders on milestone events for the vessels. Our next update is due at the end of December 2024, but should we have further updates in the meantime we will advise the NZET Committee, as we did in August 2024.

We continue to monitor closely global events that may give rise to further challenges beyond those already reported regarding the supply chain issues.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Hobbs', is written over a thin, curved line that underlines the signature.

Kevin Hobbs  
Chief Executive Officer

for and on behalf of  
Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited