



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Public Audit Committee

Fiona Hyslop MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Transport  
Scottish Government

**27 September 2024**

Dear Cabinet Secretary

### **New Vessels for the Clyde and Hebrides: Arrangements to deliver vessels 801 and 802**

Thank you for your letter of 19 July 2024 in response to the Public Audit Committee's correspondence of 13 June, which sought an update on the status of the revised Framework Agreement with Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL), including the expected publication date.

The Committee's letter also sought to establish whether the next revision of the Framework Agreement would include clarification of how Shareholder Authorisation should be sought. As you know, this was one of the Committee's recommendations in its report, [New Vessels for the Clyde and Hebrides: Arrangements to deliver vessels 801 and 802](#) which was welcomed by the Scottish Government in its response to the report.

The Committee considered your letter at its meeting on 12 September 2024 and noted that work was progressing to update the current agreement "with a view to having it finalised in the coming months". It further noted that no clarification was provided in your letter as to whether the procedure for Shareholder Authorisation would be included in the Framework Agreement.

At its meeting on 12 September, the Committee also considered correspondence from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic which included a copy of the revised Framework Agreement between the Scottish Government and Ferguson Marine (Port Glasgow) Holdings Ltd (FMPG). In reviewing this Framework Agreement, the Committee was encouraged that clarification on Shareholder Authorisation has been included in this document.

**The Committee therefore agreed to write to you once again to ask whether clarification of the process for Shareholder Authorisation, similar to that included in the FMPG Framework Agreement, will be included in the forthcoming revised Framework Agreement between the Scottish Government and CMAL.**

Contact: Public Audit Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP.  
Email: [publicaudit.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:publicaudit.committee@parliament.scot). We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

As you may be aware, I raised the issue of Shareholder Authorisation with the First Minister at the Conveners Group meeting on 18 September 2024. During the meeting, I asked whether consideration would be given to amending the Scottish Public Finance Manual, so that the recording of Shareholder Authorisations would be required in the same way that Written Authority by Ministers is required to be recorded.

I also highlighted the welcome development in the recently updated Framework Agreement between the Scottish Government and FMPG and asked whether this would become standard practice for future framework agreements between the Scottish Government and bodies which are wholly owned by Scottish Ministers.

You may wish to note that the Committee has written to the Permanent Secretary to seek an update on the discussion he has had with the First Minister following the Conveners Group meeting, and to seek further clarity on how the Scottish Government's future approach to the transparency of Shareholder Authorisation will be managed.

The Committee requests a response by **25 October 2024**.

Yours sincerely,

**Richard Leonard MSP**  
**Convener**