



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Ariane Burgess

MSP for the Highlands and Islands Region
The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

Ariane.Burgess.MSP@Parliament.Scot

Dear Shetland Islands Council,

Thank you for making me aware of your bid to the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund for funding for the Fair Isle Ferry Replacement Project.

Having a reliable ferry service is vital to ensure that people feel they can continue to live on Fair Isle. The ferry service is the lifeline for any island community, and the lack of one can be the decider for people to choose to leave their island home and life. As you have conveyed, due to the ageing nature of the current Fair Isle ferry and its associated infrastructure, there is nothing reliable about it. I am concerned that this will lead to people choosing to leave.

Replacing the MV Good Shepherd IV with a bespoke Roll on – Roll off (Ro-Ro) vessel and supporting harbour works at Grutness and North Haven is a vital and urgent project for the Island.

Introducing Ro-Ro services would be transformative for the community, bringing additional benefits by allowing greater flexibility for transporting vehicles and cargo to the Island and providing improved ferry access for passengers with mobility difficulties.

I fully support your bid for funding and wish you all the best for the project.

Kind regards,

Ariane Burgess, MSP