



**Scottish
Water**

Trusted to serve Scotland

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15 July 2022

Dear Neil,

Fair Isle Ferry - Application to UK Government Levelling Up Fund – Round 2

Thank you for your letter of 23rd June about Shetland Islands Council's Fair Isle Ferry Replacement Project.

Scottish Water provides vital water and waste water services across Scotland, including providing drinking water to 58 island communities, of which 45 islands also receive a public waste water service.

As the council and other essential service providers will appreciate, serving small island communities can involve significant extra challenges and costs. Scottish Water's commitment is to offer the same high level of service to every customer for the same affordable cost, set nationally on the basis of Council Tax bands.

Fair Isle is one of the smaller island communities that we serve and one of very few that do not currently benefit from a Ro-Ro ferry service. The island's distance from the Shetland mainland and the difficult weather and sea conditions that regularly occur present additional challenges to delivering a high standard of service and maintaining the essential infrastructure that is needed to make this possible.

The provision of a Ro-Ro ferry service, and associated improved harbour facilities, would greatly improve our ability to get essential vehicles, equipment, and supplies on and off the island both in the course of planned investment activity; and in the course of more day-to-day operational activity connected with providing the island's drinking water supply.



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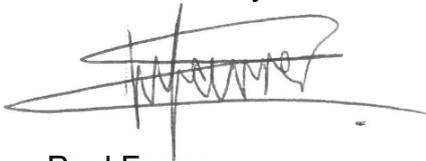
It would also have potential to support significant reduction in our costs, and the costs of our supply chain, in delivering both capital investment and operational work – costs which ultimately influence the charges which all of our customers pay and the amount of work that can be funded each year to maintain and improve service.

While there is no public Waste Water infrastructure in Fair Isle, a Ro-Ro ferry could also enable us to offer a septic tank desludging service should it be required by customers, as we do in other small island communities in Shetland and elsewhere.

We are very proud to have been able to work with the Fair Isle Electricity Company, Shetland Islands Council, Highlands & Islands Enterprise and other funding partners to support the island community's initiative to secure a 24 hour low carbon power supply for the first time in the years before the pandemic - a project which has also brought significant benefit to the operation of the island's water supply.

The Fair Isle Ferry project would further support the sustainability of the island community and its economy, while assisting Scottish Water in the provision of a high quality and resilient water supply for residents and visitors. In light of this, we would certainly wish to support the Council's application to the UK Government Levelling Up Fund.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Farrer
Chief Operating Officer

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