

Jim Eadie MSP  
Convener  
Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
EH99 1SP

22 June 2015

Dear Jim

I am writing to inform you of the publication of a report entitled 'Research and Analysis of Options for Ferry Freight Fares'. The report will be published on the Transport Scotland website on Tuesday 23 June.

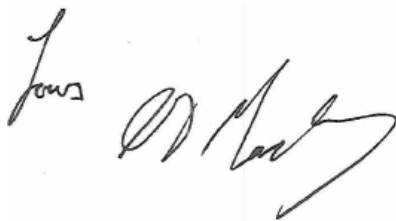
The report is part of the Ferry Freight Fares Review, of which the Committee will be aware.

The research was commissioned by Transport Scotland and carried out by independent consultants Peter Brett Associates with Proversa Limited and was overseen by a Working Group of key stakeholders. The research examined the various existing freight fares structures in place across Scotland's ferry network and conducted a best practice review with benchmarking against international practices. A number of options for future freight fares structures were generated and consulted on.

Transport Scotland, under guidance of the working group, will now undertake further analysis to consider:

- the favoured options for future freight fares structure identified in the research report; and
- the potential impacts on economic development and future sustainability of the islands.

Kind regards



**DEREK MACKAY**