

Aviation, Maritime, Freight & Canals

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Stuart Todd
Public Petitions Committee
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19 April 2013

Dear Mr Todd

Consideration of Petition PE1421

Thank you for your letter of 21 March 2013, regarding the above petition which was considered by the Public Petitions Committee at its meeting on 15 March 2013.

Please find below responses to the written questions:

Q. What is the timetable for the study to consider the impact of the removal of RET fares from commercial vehicles and when will the final report be published?

A. Over the past couple of months Transport Scotland and the study consultants have been engaging closely with Steering Group members on the final report into the post-RET impact study. The consultants, MVA have now revised the report taking on board comments from the Steering Group members. Transport Scotland are finalising publication arrangements. We anticipate that the report will be published shortly.

Q. Please provide details of the actions and next steps that will follow publication of the report.

A. As set out in the recently published Ferries Plan, it is our intention to carry out a comprehensive review of large commercial vehicle fares at the earliest opportunity, having first considered the findings from the Western Isles, Coll & Tiree study.

A working group comprising appropriate representation will be set up to take this review forward, which will include consultation with key stakeholders. The aim of this

review of freight fares will be to deliver on a new fare structure that is straightforward and transparent, and crucially does not advantage one part of the network over another. Any future fares structure will also need to balance the well-being of communities against public sector cost.

Yours sincerely

Graham M Laidlaw
Head of Ferries Unit