

Andrew Howlett  
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee  
T3.40  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

8 October 2013

Dear Mr Howlett

### **CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1421**

Thank you for your letter of 12 September 2013, regarding the above petition which was considered by the Public Petitions Committee at its meeting on 3 September 2013.

Please find below a response to the question the Committee raised on that day.

Q. What savings have been made from the removal of RET fares for commercial vehicles travelling to and from the Western Isles?

- The cost of delivering RET for Commercial Vehicles on routes to the Western Isles, Coll and Tiree was £3.5 m per annum, a total of £7m over two years.
- The transitional scheme put in place to mitigate the impact of removing RET from Commercial vehicles on routes to the Western Isles, Coll and Tiree is estimated to cost £4.5 m over the two years (2012/13 and 2013/14).
- The actual savings from the removal of RET for Commercial vehicles on routes to the Western Isles, Coll and Tiree are therefore estimated to be £2.5 m over the two years.

Yours sincerely

Graham M Laidlaw  
Head of Ferries Unit