

PE1428/I

Minister for Transport and Veterans

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Alison Wilson
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Your ref: PE1428
Our ref: A4717708
27 December 2012

Dear Committee Clerk

Consideration of Petition PE 1428

Thank you for your letter of 27 November, following the Public Petitions Committee's meeting on 13 November 2012.

With regard to the Petitioner Letter of 31 October 2012, I can assure you that the Scottish Government fully appreciates the importance of the A83 to the communities of Argyll and Bute. The economic impact of potential long term solutions at the Rest and Be Thankful was considered as part of the A83 Study. The draft A83 Study report is now available on the Transport Scotland website at:

<http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/maintenance/landslides/A83-rest-and-be-thankful>.

Comments are invited by 25 January 2013. Transport Scotland's response to the report will be presented to the A83 Taskforce at its next meeting, provisionally on 22 February 2013 and thereafter published on the Transport Scotland website.

Our Draft Ferries Plan for consultation, published in December 2011, included a proposal to introduce a ferry service between Campbeltown and Ayrshire, via Arran. The Draft Plan indicated that the service would operate one or two days per week and allow for return trips

to the Scottish mainland. We asked the community for their views on whether such a service would be well used and we have carefully considered all consultation responses received.

The Scottish Ferry Services Ferries Plan (2013-2022) was published on 19 Decemeber 2012. This includes, as one of the commitments to be delivered in the short-term, the pilot of a passenger and freight summer service between Campbeltown and Ardrossan (via Arran). The service is likely to involve three sailing days from Campbeltown each week. Further information on the recently published Scottish Ferry Services Ferries Plan (2013-2022) can be found at

<http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/analysis/publications-and-consultations/Scottish-Ferry-Services-Ferries-Plan> .

I hope this is helpful.

KEITH BROWN