

5 February 2026

Dear Stakeholder,

NORTHERN ISLES FERRY SERVICES (NIFS4) CONTRACT

As you will be aware, the public consultation on the Northern Isles Ferry Services 4 (NIFS4) concluded on 20 October 2025. All responses have now been analysed, and both the full report and thematic summary are now available to view on the Transport Scotland website at: [Northern Isles Ferry Services 4 | Public consultation | Transport Scotland](#).

The NIFS4 consultation process has provided extensive and constructive feedback across a wide range of topics, including capacity and short-notice travel, onboard accommodation, the cost of travel, and service reliability.

Launched on 22 July 2025 and extended to 20 October 2025; to allow for further participation, the consultation received over 1,100 responses. In addition to the formal online consultation, community drop-in sessions were also held in Kirkwall and Stromness (Orkney) as well as Lerwick (Shetland) to gather local views on the future contract.

All consultation feedback is now being carefully considered as part of the NIFS4 contract development process. Decisions on the detailed requirements of the contract will be informed by the consultation findings, operational feasibility, wider transport policy objectives, and affordability. Further updates and next steps will be published on the Transport Scotland website and in engagement with regular forums and key stakeholders in due course as the procurement work progresses.

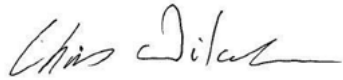
We would like to express our sincere thanks for your active participation, promotion of the consultation and valuable contributions to this process. Your input is playing an important role in shaping the future of the Northern Isles Ferry Services.

If you have any questions or comments about the consultation exercise, please send them directly to FerriesNIFS4Team@transport.gov.scot.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Thank you once again for your continued support and engagement.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Wilcock
Transport Scotland, Director of Ferries and Ports

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE[™]
We invest in people Silver

