

Friday, 11th June 2021

Mr Kenneth Gibson MSP

Dear Kenneth,

Pentalina Trial

The recent breakdown and consequent removal from service of the MV Loch Seaforth had a detrimental knock-on effect on the Arran ferry service. Much was made at the time of the possibility of chartering the MV Pentalina to provide emergency cover in the almost inevitable event of future breakdowns. Although it may not fit every harbour it would seem to be worthy of trial for want of other alternatives.

We note with interest recent statements by the RMT union questioning the safety of the MV Pentalina. The Marine Coastguard Agency are the official maritime safety organisation with regard to UK shipping. They have a reputation for high standards and stringent enforcement. The Pentalina has a full MCA Passenger Ship Safety Certificate. There can therefore be no concerns regarding the safety of this vessel .

However we are concerned that the interests of the RMT union may be put before that of the lives and livelihoods of your Arran constituents in attempts to mitigate the failings of the current ferry service. Can you assure us that you will put the interests of island residents and businesses first and foremost in any future debate or discussion on this matter?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Fulton", written in a cursive style.

Gavin Fulton
For Arran Ferry Action Group