

From: McMillan SM (Stuart), MSP [mailto:Stuart.McMillan.msp@parliament.scot]
Sent: 11 May 2020 09:44
To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity <CabSecTIC@gov.scot>
Subject: Mooring or docking of vessels

Dear First Minister,

You will be aware of discussions between Inverclyde Council and Peel Ports regarding the potential for up to 12 cruise ships to dock at Ocean Terminal in Greenock. Councillors took the decision to reject this proposal at their meeting on Tuesday 5th May.

There clearly were concerns that Councillors raised about this proposal. I share these concerns and those of the Health and Social Care Partnership and sadly, welcome their decision.

If we were in normal times, I would continue to welcome the crew and the many passengers who arrive in Greenock. However, we are not in normal times. So far, Inverclyde has been the hardest hit area due to Covid-19. I absolutely understand the humanitarian argument to help the crew and it is a powerful argument which I agree with. However, my priority is and will continue to be my constituency and everyone who lives here.

With the higher than average level of deaths in Inverclyde, I cannot agree to this additional risk to our community. Any issues which arise from the ships docking here could in turn have a direct impact on our local health services and any additional pressures at present are not acceptable.

As reported in the Greenock Telegraph, there were many unanswered questions that Councillors quite rightly raised. They were correct in asking them and seeking this information. Ultimately, I believe the risks to my constituents outweigh the benefits to the crews on the ships docking here.

You have consistently taken a cautious approach with regards to community and societal activity. This has been welcomed and praised in equal measure. Furthermore, it has been the correct approach to take. Every country will take decisions based upon their own circumstances and I note that New Zealand has banned cruise ships from their waters until 30th June. There are many of our European neighbours who have banned crew changes during Covid-19. I want to protect Inverclyde citizens and believe that sadly, on this occasion, refusing people to come ashore is the correct decision.

I appreciate that Maritime Law is reserved but the Scottish Government have a legal role to play in this matter. I therefore am writing to both Government's asking them to reject this request.

Kind regards,

Stuart McMillan MSP
Greenock and Inverclyde
(Scottish National Party)

Constituency Office
26 Grey Place
Greenock
Inverclyde

PA15 1YF

Tel.: 01475 720 930

E-Mail: Stuart.McMillan.MSP@Parliament.scot



 You can now register to vote online. Click [here](#) to make sure your vote matters



From 12 March 2018,
face-to-face lobbying must
be registered. Find out more:



LOBBYING REGISTER | CLÀR-COITEACHAIDH

WWW.LOBBYING.SCOT

Lobbying Register | Clàr-coiteachaidh | www.lobbying.scot