

Notice of Motion to full council:

Request for an Independent Judge-led Enquiry on the procurement and design processes by Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) for Hull 802 and sister ship Glen Sannox.

This council acknowledges the skills and expertise of the Ferguson Marine workforce and are fully supportive of maintaining and growing Shipbuilding, Ship Maintenance and Repair on the Lower Clyde.

It also notes that the Scottish Parliament's Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee in December 2020 stated that there had been a "catastrophic failure" in managing of the procurement of Hull 802 and sister ship, Glen Sannox.

Therefore, this council requests that the Chief Executive writes to the First Minister to seek an independent judge-led enquiry on the procurement and design processes / procedures by CMAL to establish why these vessels have been unable to be completed and as to why successive deadlines and key milestones have been missed and costs massively overrun.

Background:

Ferguson Marine is a key employer and an integral part of the Maritime sector.

Despite there being a Parliamentary Enquiry, which was critical of all parties involved, there has been no one held to account over this embarrassing procurement failure.

With regards to Ferguson Marine, a turn-around director, who earned in the region of £2M for 18 months, has been and gone with no visible / obvious signs of his impact.

As for CMAL, it's business as usual with no change of direction or improvement evident.

There appears to be a lack of project management skills, a critical requirement when working on complex projects, with no one person understanding or controlling the overall programme. Specifications have not been clearly captured, communicated or understood, resulting in an incomplete design resulting in significant reworks. E.g. most of the pipework and couplings in the engine room of the Glen Sannox needs to be replaced. It has been in the water for four years or more, therefore it is unknown as to what additional work will be required.

Only an independent judge-led enquiry will establish the full facts and identify where the shortcomings lie, with the appropriate recommendations to restore public confidence in the Scottish Government and other public bodies' involvement in these builds.

Moved: Cllr Jim McEleny

Seconded: Cllr Chris McEleny

3rd February 2022