

01/07/2025

Dear Jim and Pippa

As feared, we have had confirmation that the Caledonian Isles is not fixed, and the IOM is being re-deployed. The Craignure service will reduce back to the Frisa/Coruisk pairing from next Monday.

As per the email below, **the Council has a role to play in mitigating this**. On behalf of the communities of Mull and Iona, I am requesting that the Council urgently contact CalMac and inform them that should they require it, the south berth of Craignure Pier will be made available to them on any night they require it. For the avoidance of all doubt regarding CalMac's options and in view of the short time available, it is imperative that this decision is taken immediately and CalMac informed **no later than 9am tomorrow**.

We cannot tolerate a repeat of past events, where over-night bookings for the Lord of the Glens or Lord of the Highlands take precedence over our lifeline ferry service. **Severe capacity reduction at the height of the season is an economic emergency and needs to be treated as such**. Any small cruise ships with prior bookings can find alternative overnight berths in at Lochaline old pier, Fishnish Pier, Salen or Tobermory. (Note that CalMac can free up Tobermory pier when it suits them, as demonstrated by recent over-nighting of the Loch Portain there, enabled by moving the Loch Riddon the to the commercial pontoon).

THIS NEEDS YOUR URGENT ATTENTION AND SWIFT ACTION.

If anything is unclear about the circumstances or the request, please respond by return.

Best regards

Joe



Mull & Iona Ferry Committee

www.mullandionaferrycommittee.org

Joe Reade, Chair.

joe@islandbakery.co.uk

[Prior email, to which there has not yet been a reply]

27/06/2025

Dear Jim

Further to the email thread below, we would be grateful if you can please brief your ports team and others as appropriate that a request for use of the south berth of craignure pier may come soon from calmac (if repairs to the Caledonian isles are unsuccessful), and that if received they should be honoured, irrespective of any prior commercial bookings there may be.

When we have attempted to discuss this topic on previous occasions, the council have maintained the 'policy' that prior commercial bookings take priority over the needs of our lifeline ferry operator. This is despite clear evidence that this 'policy' only applies to craignure pier; and the obvious principle that our public ferry pier should prioritise the operation of public ferry services.

I wish to make it clear on behalf of the communities of Mull and Iona that any impediment to the operation of amended ferry services to/from craignure pier in the coming weeks that results from prioritisation of prior non-ferry bookings will not be tolerated. As council leader, it is your responsibility to ensure lifeline ferry services are not impeded, and we trust you will recognise that duty.

I would be grateful if you can please reply as a matter of urgency, and confirm that should calmac require to over-night a vessel on the south berth of craignure pier anytime in the coming months in order to facilitate the delivery of ferry services, you will ensure they are given access anytime they request it.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards
Joe



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