

SCDI PRESS RELEASE

SCDI URGES COMMISSION TO WORK WITH SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE FERRY SERVICES

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The Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI) has urged the European Commission to work with the Scottish Government to look at improvements to Scotland's ferry services.

SCDI's Highlands and Islands Manager Gareth Williams said:

"The European Union classifies the Northern and Western isles, north and west Highlands, and Argyll and Bute as extremely or very peripheral. Ferry services in these areas cannot simply be treated like other tendered transport services.

"It is difficult to see how the routes could be broken up and re-tendered in a way that didn't allow cherry-picking of the most profitable connections with disastrous consequences for some of our most fragile economies.

"The key issue that the European Commission needs to focus on is working with the Scottish Government to look at how we can improve levels of service and innovation across the entire Scottish ferry network.

"We will be pressing the Commission to support Scottish ministers to improve services and maximize the economic opportunities across Scotland's fragile island communities."

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