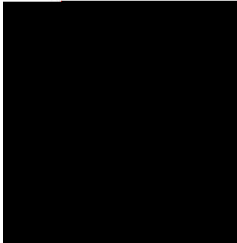


longer term strategic work now underway to produce the successor to the current Ferries Plan (2013-22).

We appreciate the community's willingness to contribute to the process and look forward to CalMac, Transport Scotland and the community working together on developing the future plans for services and infrastructure.

I hope you find this helpful in explaining the situation.

Yours sincerely,



Ashley Jones
Ferries Policy Officer
Transport Scotland

“The main concern is operating to/from the Claonaig slipway in the winter. The reason being it is very exposed to swell as well as winds, especially from the North East to South. Operating in those conditions will make it unsafe to maintain the vessel's position while carrying out passenger operations.

The vessel has had her hull damaged at the slipway previously and operating in more challenging conditions will only exacerbate the issue. The surrounding of the slipway is very shallow and we have imposed a tidal limit of 0.3 meters to prevent further damage to the vessel.

Weather data for the area available from the Admiralty Sailing Direction South-West Coast of Scotland is as follow:

Days with winds gales as follow:

October: 3

November: 5

December: 8

January: 8

February: 6

March: 5

This means that at least on those days per month the vessel will not be able to operate the full day. Depending on the residual swell this might affect some of the following days too.

With regards to wind and swell, the worse directions that will effect operating to/from Claonaig slipway is from North East to South. Anything above force 5 of the Beaufort scale might lead to a cancellation. Lack of daylight will also have a detrimental effect.

Admiralty Sailing Direction South-West Coast of Scotland data is as follow:

September/October:

There is a 40% chance of having winds from that direction of which 20% between 4 to 6 of the Beaufort scale and 10% of winds between 7 to 12 of the Beaufort scale.

This translate at about 18 days for the two months where the service will more likely be disrupted partially or entirely.

November/December:

There is a >40% chance of having winds from that direction of which 28% between 4 to 6 of the Beaufort scale and 10% of winds between 7 to 12 of the Beaufort scale.

This translates at about 23 days for the two months where the service will more likely be disrupted partially or entirely.

January/February:

There is a 50% chance of having winds from that direction of which 20% between 4 to 6 of the Beaufort scale and 10% of winds between 7 to 12 of the Beaufort scale.

This translate at about 18 days for the two months where the service will more likely be disrupted partially or entirely.

