Public comments following North Isles Ferry Replacement Consultation – September 2025

SANDAY

Solid State batteries? – Quicker charge time and longer output!

Battery technology will be as per maker's standard when batteries are procured. Solid state is a novel technology, and batteries need to be available and approved for marine use; hence subject to procurement from a very limited amount of battery makers worldwide for marine use. In addition, automative batteries (where solid state is a hot topic) are smaller capacity compared to marine batteries, so unclear if first installed batteries can be solid state. However, for the design powered by batteries the limiting factor is actually the overall capacity (kWh) rather than the actual charging time.

10 HGVs isn't much! Is the vehicle capacity increased?

Perhaps a lack of understanding here of the overall % increase and current challenges due to vessels being weight constrained.

Will there be sausage rolls?

Will pass on to kitchen!

Pet travelling area – Would it be possible for some separation between cats and dogs? This is now common in vet waiting areas. Currently the 'Earls' allow for pets to be outside, inside upstairs and on disabled seats, so nervous cats can be kept away from dogs!

Operational matter. Luggage area to be considered on car deck. Could this also accommodate pet crates etc so that we have an alternative option for those travelling as foot passengers with animals?

Forward viewing – Move the quiet space back so all passengers have access to both sides of the forward windows. This is a good compromise to the lack of side viewing outside.

The medical room is already behind a ventilation structure so would not yield additional forward viewing.

Will the quiet lounge cost more? Will seats have to be reserved? Lots of 'phone/laptop charge points please!

Not part of design process but no proposed changes to fare structure for specific areas. Charge points have been incorporated in design for all seating areas.

Noted. Will be addressed in final outline design.

Outside space - Needs side viewing on both sides! Many travellers are wildlife enthusiasts and rear-viewing only negatively impacts this! Also means cetacean surveys (OMMRI) will no longer be able to happen as they need an element of forward viewing either side of the vessel!

Observation from large windows both sides may be feasible as well as forward and aft. Seating/viewing area towards the aft of the vessel on deck 4 and deck 5.

Are children allowed in the quiet lounge?

Policy matter for OF to address, not part of design process.

Please keep luggage racks on the car deck!

Noted. Luggage racks to be considered on the car deck as well as deck 4 (passenger).

Crew accommodation for overnight in Isles please, even if it's one night a week! If it went at 7am on a Monday, all KGS schoolchildren could have an extra night at home!

This is already incorporated in the outline design. Full crewing accommodation is featured in the design which means that overnighting in the isles could be considered again which was operated pre-covid.