

Public comments following North Isles Ferry Replacement Consultation – September 2025

WESTRAY

Will I still get a bacon roll?

Yes!

Will there be additional vehicle capacity in the summer?

Vehicle capacity will be the same summer and winter with 34 cars or 10HGV's which is significantly more than current carrying capacity.

More bench seating even though the seats are recliners!

Noted. Final outline design will consider a mix of seating to take into consideration comments about group bookings, families and people wishing to lie down.

Pet area needs to be able to keep dogs away from people with cats!

Noted. Operational matter.

Luggage area to be considered in lower car deck area – could this also accommodate pet carriers?

Accessible features need to be suitable for users!

Noted. New vessels will meet current DDA regulations.

Further consultation with key groups re specific facilities i.e. hoist?

Will the vessels be quicker, to enable faster journey times?

Journey times expected to be comparable with existing, noting slightly faster speeds but ability to carry more vehicles, passengers and freight.

Kids' play area is a great idea!

Noted.

Looks great! Similar enough to existing with so many improvements! Thank you!

Noted.

Bench seating please! (x2)

Changes to seating noted for final outline design. Soft seating to accommodate people wishing to lie down or sit in a group etc.

Why is the new vessel design not a catamaran?

As outlined at presentation, vessels need to work with existing infrastructure. This would significantly compromise the design of a catamaran for this network. Three vessel designs have been considered against a set of KPI's, with the traditional monohull being ranked as most suitable. This decision has been fully supported by OF crew.

Will there be space for animals?

Yes. Pet owners lounge.

Consideration of space in car deck for pet carriers?

Great access on new boats! Eg lifts!

Noted.

Work areas – good! Charging points at seating also good!

Noted.

Good reliable wifi is vital!

Noted.

Timetable – Early morning sailing once/twice a week to allow early access to town.

Operational. Noted.

Fixed Links please!

Noted. Not an option in the short to medium term.

We will miss bench seats for sleeping on after a long day in the toon. Don't laugh or trivialise it – it's important – don't lie down all the time!

Noted. Will be considered in final outline design.

Glad to hear it's not a catamaran!

Noted.

Access directly to passenger accommodation please! – saves walking along the car deck gangway!

Access via car deck would be the proposed approach. Will discuss gangways and suitability in more detail.