



ICIA Screening Questionnaire

1. Description of Proposal

Consequence of changes to the timetable (TT) resulting in an increase in turnaround requirements and the introduction of a programmed weekly maintenance day during the winter 2026/27 timetable.

These changes result in:

- Slightly extended turnaround times between crossings
- A reduction in total daily sailings (circa 21.5% overall reduction) compared to the previous winter timetable
- The continuation of planned maintenance days, where service may operate with a lower capacity vessel

Mitigations include timetable structuring to maintain core connectivity and prioritise lifeline services, including commuter and essential travel periods (e.g. early morning and evening peaks).

2. Which community / area / route could be affected?

Customers of Largs-Cumbræ route

3. Questions

Answer

Rationale/ Explanation / Decision

<p>Could the proposed change potentially impact an island community?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal is expected to result in a reduction in overall sailings and therefore total capacity, which has the potential to impact how island residents, businesses, and visitors access services. • Although core connectivity remains in place, fewer sailings may reduce flexibility, particularly during peak periods or for urgent travel. • There may be knock-on effects on freight movements and vehicle capacity, during peak times. • However, impacts are partially mitigated by maintaining a consistent service pattern and prioritising lifeline access including commuters.
<p>Q2. Could this proposal affect island communities in a significantly different way to other islanders or users of ferry services on the mainland?</p>	<p>No</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While the proposal introduces some service reductions, the nature of these does not result in there not being enough capacity to meet demand. • Essential access to healthcare, employment, education, and public services would remain available, with no loss of core connectivity. • The introduction of the maintenance period is planned to bring operational resilience benefits, potentially lowering the risk of unplanned breakdowns and disruption. • Weather sensitivity, reliance on single vessel through thw winter, and freight dependencies remain unchanged in principle, and no island group is disproportionately affected relative to others.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall, impacts are considered broadly consistent and not uniquely severe for any specific community.
<p>To what extent could the proposed change potentially impact an island community?</p>	<p>Low - Some difference for island communities, but the effect is small, localised or easily managed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal maintains continuity of service, with regular sailings still available and no loss of essential lifeline connectivity • Although there are fewer sailings, timetable structure remains sufficient to support same-day travel (subject to connection checks). • Any impacts on passengers are likely to be limited to minor inconvenience, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >Slightly longer waiting times between sailings (e.g. up to 20 minutes) • >Reduced flexibility in travel choice rather than loss of access • Freight and essential vehicle movements would continue to be prioritised, particularly during periods of reduced capacity or disruption. • Demand is expected to be lower during the winter period, particularly for tourism, which helps offset reduced capacity. • Mitigations have been agreed to provide additional sailings in the morning before the vessels take on fuel, in order that islander wishing to travel to the mainland. • Earliest sailing have be brought forward to 5 mins to ensure that connection with train in Glasgow can continue to be met with enough connection time. • A reduction in commercial traffic pressure is anticipated as major infrastructure works (e.g. Scottish Water / Cumbrae developments) conclude, further easing capacity constraints. • Improved maintenance scheduling and vessel availability should enhance reliability, reducing the likelihood of cancellations, which is a key factor for community impact. • The revised timetable with longer turnaround enhances the ability to recover following disruption, with services typically returning to the planned schedule within two sailings. • For customers, this means disruption is less likely to persist throughout the day, helping to maintain reliability, protect onward connections, and provide greater confidence in completing planned journeys.

Outcome	Date Completed
No impact assessment required.	27/05/2026