



ICIA Screening Questionnaire

1. Description of Proposal

The introduction of maintenance windows represents a change to previous operating arrangements under CHFS2, where such time was not formally required within timetables. As a result, this approach is being phased in across routes, with implementation tailored to individual service patterns, operational constraints and levels of demand.

The primary objective of the proposal is to improve the reliability and resilience of ferry services by enabling planned maintenance activities to be carried out safely and effectively. Modern vessels consist of thousands of individual components, many of which require regular inspection, servicing or repair. While some maintenance can be undertaken while vessels are in operation, a proportion of essential work can only be completed when the vessel is alongside and not in active service. Providing dedicated maintenance time allows defects to be addressed at an early stage, reducing the likelihood of escalation into more serious failures and avoiding unplanned cancellations or extended periods out of service.

The proposal also reflects wider operational requirements, including compliance with safety standards, statutory inspection regimes, and crew working time regulations. Without planned maintenance windows, maintenance and repair activity can place pressure on crew working hours, potentially leading to subsequent service disruption where vessels are required to be withdrawn to ensure compliance with rest requirements.

Implementation of maintenance windows will require adjustments to existing timetables and may result in a reduction of services on some routes. It may include changes to sailing frequency, timing, or daily service patterns, and will be developed on a route-by-route basis. In all cases, changes will be informed by demand analysis, operational data, and engagement with local communities and stakeholders, with the aim of minimising disruption and maintaining appropriate levels of connectivity. Where the introduction of maintenance time has the potential to affect service levels, options to mitigate impacts will be considered as part of the timetable development process.

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

This screening questionnaire is being conducted for users of the Tayinloan-Gigha service.

3. Questions

Answer

Rationale/ Explanation / Decision

| 3. Questions | Answer | Rationale/ Explanation / Decision |
|--|--------|---|
| Q1. Could the proposed change potentially impact an island community? | Yes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal relates to ferry service timetables and the introduction of planned maintenance windows, which may affect sailing frequency and timing. As ferry services provide essential connectivity for island communities, including access to services, employment, education and freight, there is potential for impact. |
| Q2. Could this proposal affect island communities in a significantly different way to other islanders or customers of the service on the mainland | No | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The introduction of planned maintenance windows may result in some adjustments to sailing frequency and timing on certain routes. This could affect aspects such as commuter travel, school transport, access to healthcare and other essential services, as well as the movement of freight and lifeline supplies. However, these changes will be developed on a route-by-route |



| 3. Questions | Answer | Rationale/ Explanation / Decision |
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| | | <p>basis, informed by demand analysis and engagement with local communities, with the aim of minimising impacts on residents, key workers, and essential journeys.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While island communities are more reliant on ferry services and may be sensitive to changes affecting same-day travel, connectivity and service availability, the proposal is intended to improve overall service reliability and resilience. By enabling essential maintenance to be carried out in a planned way, it reduces the risk of unplanned breakdowns, cancellations and prolonged disruption, which can have more significant impacts on school travel, commuting, delivery of essential goods and access to services. • Potential impacts relating to capacity, accessibility, costs and the operation of lifeline services will be considered as part of timetable development, including maintaining appropriate provision for essential travel, freight and key user groups. • Overall, the proposal is expected to provide longer-term benefits through improved reliability and reduced disruption, and does not disproportionately disadvantage island communities compared to current arrangements. |
| <p>Q3. To what extent could the proposed change potentially impact an island community?</p> | <p>2 - Low - Some difference for island communities, but the effect is small, localised or easily managed</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tayinloan-Gigha route provides the sole means of access to the island of Gigha and is therefore essential for residents, businesses and the delivery of key services. • Engagement has taken place with the local community, and consultation is ongoing to agree suitable maintenance periods that minimise disruption. • The route supports regular weekday movements, including school children travelling to and from the island, as well as essential services such as the Post Office van, which operates Monday to Friday. Residents are also required to travel off-island for healthcare, including GP, hospital, dental and optical appointments. While this demonstrates reliance on the service, these journeys are generally planned in advance and can be aligned with the published timetable and agreed maintenance periods. • Essential goods and supplies are delivered throughout the week, with ferry operations supporting food deliveries and other key provisions. The presence of a manned slip facilitates the efficient handling of these deliveries, and established processes—such as commercial bookings being managed via Kennacraig; help |



| 3. Questions | Answer | Rationale/ Explanation / Decision |
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| | | <p>ensure continuity and coordination of freight movements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local businesses are similarly dependent on the service, but are accustomed to planning around scheduled sailings and are engaged in the consultation process. Given that there is no alternative transport link to the island, sensitivity to disruption is acknowledged. However, the proactive engagement with the community, the agreement of suitable maintenance windows, and the ability to plan essential travel and deliveries in advance significantly reduce the likelihood of adverse impacts. Overall, while the route is vital to the island community, the collaborative approach to scheduling and the structured nature of key movements mean that impacts are expected to be limited and manageable. As such, the impact is considered low. |

| Outcome | Date Completed |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| No impact assessment needed | 28/05/26 |