



## ICIA Screening Questionnaire

### 1. Description of Proposal

The CalMac fleet is entering a period of significant transition with:

- Delivery of new Islay Class vessels.
- Entry into service of MV Glen Rosa.
- Planned redelivery of older vessels.
- Continuing infrastructure constraints across parts of the network.
- Risks associated with further delays to vessel delivery programmes.

To set out how the service and communities will be impacted by these changes, CalMac published a Strategic Vessel Deployment, Disposal and Cascade Plan in December 2025. Since publication, consultation has been undertaken with communities likely to be affected by strategic vessel deployment decisions. Using the feedback from communities coupled with operational assessments, vessel condition reports, capacity modelling and financial assessments, we have revisited our proposed plans to ensure delivery of a service which better meets the needs of our communities.

The revised proposal seeks to balance:

- Community priorities.
- Route-specific operational requirements.
- Capacity requirements.
- Wider network resilience.
- Financial sustainability.
- Fleet transition risks.

Taking the feedback received into account, we proposed the following summary changes to the Strategic Vessel Deployment, Disposal and Cascade plan (referred to as the plan or baseline plan, throughout the document):

- Retain MV Isle of Arran until August 2027
- Retain MV Isle of Mull and undertake investment work in the vessel, until replacement vessels arrive in 2030
- Redeliver MV Caledonian Isles
- Implement revised deployment across Arran, Barra, Mull, Colonsay, Coll and Tiree routes.

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

Isle of Arran, Isle of Barra, Isle of Mull, Isle of Coll, Isle of Tiree and Isle of Colonsay

### 3. Questions

#### Answer

#### Rationale/ Explanation / Decision

|                                                                              |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Q1. Could the proposed change potentially impact an island community?</b> | Yes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, island communities could be impacted by the changes being made. However, impacts are expected to be positive or neutral rather than adverse, and primarily relate to vessel deployment and resilience arrangements rather than changes to the ferry services themselves.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Q2. Could this proposal affect island communities in a</b>                | No  | No. Although the proposal changes vessel deployment arrangements on routes serving Arran, Barra, Mull, Coll, Tiree and Colonsay, it does not change the                                                                                                                                                                           |



| 3. Questions                 | Answer | Rationale/ Explanation / Decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| significantly different way? |        | <p>fundamental purpose, availability or role of those lifeline ferry services. Compared with the baseline plan, the assessment has not identified a significantly different effect on island communities for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essential access: The proposal is not expected to reduce access to healthcare, education, employment or public services. The affected routes will continue to provide the connections on which island communities rely.</li> <li>• Same-day and urgent travel: No material loss of same-day travel, onward connections or the ability to make urgent journeys has been identified. Deployment decisions are intended to support delivery of the existing timetables and connections.</li> <li>• Weather and disruption: The proposal does not introduce greater weather sensitivity or remove practical sailing options. Retaining MV Isle of Arran and MV Isle of Mull provides additional fleet flexibility during disruption, overhaul periods, infrastructure constraints or delays to new vessels.</li> <li>• Freight and supplies: Freight connectivity, deliveries and the movement of time-sensitive goods are expected to be maintained. The revised deployment provides additional vehicle and freight capacity on some services, including Oban–Castlebay, compared with the baseline plan.</li> <li>• Island economies: No material adverse effect has been identified for local businesses, tourism, crofting, fishing or other island-based activity because service connectivity and capacity are maintained or improved.</li> <li>• Capacity for essential users: The proposal is not expected to create additional capacity pressure for residents, key workers, patients, school travel or essential vehicles. Capacity is maintained or improved against the baseline plan, including additional summer capacity on the Barra route.</li> <li>• Household and business costs: The proposal does not change fares and is not expected to create additional travel, accommodation or lost-time costs through a material reduction in connectivity.</li> <li>• Service resilience: Rather than increasing dependence on a single vessel, route or port, the proposal is designed to strengthen network resilience by retaining vessels and increasing operational flexibility during the fleet transition.</li> <li>• Accessibility and equality: No change has been identified that would place disabled passengers,</li> </ul> |



| 3. Questions                                                                                | Answer                                                                                                  | Rationale/ Explanation / Decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                             |                                                                                                         | <p>older people, children, carers or other groups at a particular disadvantage. Existing passenger assistance and access arrangements are unaffected by the deployment proposal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community sustainability: By maintaining lifeline connectivity and improving resilience during fleet and infrastructure change, the proposal is not expected to undermine community confidence, population sustainability or the viability of island life.</li> </ul> <p>On this basis, any differences arising from the revised vessel deployments are expected to be limited and manageable, rather than significantly different adverse effects for island communities.</p>                                                                      |
| <b>Q3. To what extent could the proposed change potentially impact an island community?</b> | 2 - Low - Some difference for island communities, but the effect is small, localised or easily managed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal will result in some differences for island communities through changes to vessel deployment and resilience arrangements. However, the changes are not expected to materially reduce connectivity, service frequency, access to essential services or overall route capacity when compared with the baseline fleet deployment plan. The proposal has been developed in response to community feedback and is intended to improve network resilience and operational flexibility during a period of significant fleet transition. While some islands may experience different vessel deployments than originally planned, the resulting impacts are expected to be limited, manageable and predominantly positive.</li> </ul> |

| Outcome                                                                                                   | Date Completed |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| No impact assessment needed, use the consultation process instead and document and publish your rationale | 23/09/2026     |