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Dr John Holliday
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Your ref:
Camper van charges on the CalMac
network

Our ref:
202200283681

Date:
24 March 2022

Dear Dr John Holliday,

Thank you for your email of 24 February 2022 regarding campervan fares.

It may be helpful if I provide some background on the reasons for this change which has been introduced across the Clyde & Hebrides Ferry Service network.

In response to significant and sustained community feedback, the fares for motorhomes and campervans over 6m long are being increased, partly to begin to address the disparity with fares for commercial vehicles of equivalent length. The multiplier formula used to calculate fares for campervans over 6m fares will increase fares by an additional x1 standard car fare for the journey. A 25% discount is available on the price of a vehicle ticket (car/motorhome/motorbike) for customers who hold a blue badge issued by gov.uk/apply-blue-badge - the discount does not apply to the passenger/driver ticket.

There is no fundamental increase for campervans that are under 6 metres, other than the standard inflationary increase, therefore the charge will be the same as a car fare.

It is worth highlighting that campervans have benefitted through the roll out of Road Equivalent Tariff (RET), which has delivered an estimated average fare reduction of 34% for passengers and 40% for car and campervans traffic, saving passengers around £25m a year.

Managing islander, tourist and freight demand across the network is a challenging balance with no easy answers. We are however actively considering potential demand management measures, and opportunities provided by CalMac Ferries Ltd (CFL) new ticketing system coming in later in the year.

You may be interested to know that a wide and holistic review of ferry fares policy will be conducted during 2022 as part of the Islands Connectivity Plan. Consultation and engagement will be central to the development of the Plan as a whole and the fares review in particular; this provides the opportunity to ensure that our fares policy continues to address the needs of island residents, businesses and communities.

I appreciate this reply may be disappointing however I hope you find the additional explanation helpful.

Yours sincerely

Laurence Kenney

Laurence Kenney
Head of Ferries Policy Unit