



Department
for Transport

Lord Davies of Gower
Minister for Maritime, International and Security

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: Lord.davies@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Cllr Robert Francis
Chair
Council of the Isles of Scilly
Town Hall
St Marys
Isles of Scilly
TR21 0LW

14 February 2024

Dear Cllr Francis,

Isles of Scilly Ferry Replacement Project – Change in Status of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) bid

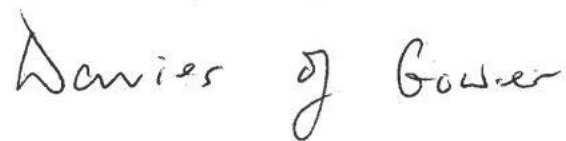
Thank you and your team for all your hard work on the Isles of Scilly Ferry Replacement (“Sea Links”) project, it has been a challenging project and I recognise all the effort that the council have undertaken to seek a solution that is in the best interests of the islanders.

As announced by Isles of Scilly Steamship Group (ISSG) on Thursday 18 January 2024, the group has now signed a construction contract with Piriou, their preferred shipyard, for the new passenger and freight vessels to serve the Penzance to St Mary’s route.

Through discussion with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, we have reached a common understanding that public funds could not be used to deliver new vessels which would directly compete with a private operator on the route. An enduring lifeline sealink service for the islands has always been the main objective of the LUF project which ISSG now declare they will provide.

I share your disappointment that it has not been possible to provide new vessels with levelling up funding, despite the tremendous efforts of colleagues in both our organisations. Discussions will continue to consider how government can assist the council.

On behalf of the Department for Transport, I would like to thank you, Cllr Sims and all your officers for the determination and skill which you have demonstrated throughout this project.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Davies of Gower". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

LORD DAVIES OF GOWER