

12 December 2025 - Jersey Sports Council

To: Scrutiny Communications <Scrutiny@gov.je>

Subject: Scrutiny Hearing with DFDS

I refer to the upcoming Scrutiny Meeting with DFDS.

The Jersey Sports Council has been asking for a regular long day inter island service for some considerable time as well as regular services supporting the motorsport and equine community.

Ahead of the contract being awarded to DFDS, and in response to correspondence from the Jersey Sports Council, three separate senior politicians (or their offices) stated in January 2025:

“ I can assure you that inter island travel is a priority, and I will do all I can to impress on others the need for some regular travel between Jersey and Guernsey. There are many options, but they all include proper “joint working”. I hope very much that we can secure regular travel in both directions for the benefit of all.”

“Ministers share your views about the importance of inter-island ferry services and recognise the significance of these links, particularly at weekends to supporting inter-insular sporting events.

Over the past few weeks Ministers in Jersey and Guernsey have corresponded on this issue and are due to meet again shortly. Discussions have also taken place with DFDS who are very supportive of inter-island travel links and have themselves held meetings with Jersey Sport to discuss the potential requirements.”

“Ministers have been in discussions regarding weekend inter-island ferry links to facilitate inter-insular fixtures and other links between Jersey and Guernsey.”

After being awarded the contract the Chairman of DFDS and subsequently local Manager Mr Chris Parker, both stated that an Inter Island service had not formed part of either tender process.

The Jersey Sports Council does NOT want to indulge in any backward looking blame game. We recognise that DFDS has been awarded the contract for 20 years and we wish them a successful tenure.

Considering the importance of inter island travel and the recognition of that within Government, we hope that DFDS will include regular inter island travel within their future timetables and that Government will support them, if asked, in any discussion with Guernsey and St Malo for ramp and port access.

The Jersey Sports Council itself will be meeting with representatives of DFDS to discuss how such operations can happen and be supported.

I noted that in the Scrutiny hearing Mr Parker acknowledged that indeed an inter island service had been discussed. The day after the Scrutiny hearing I, alongside another JSC Committee member, met with Mr Parker where he again mentioned that an Inter Island service had been discussed during the process.

I did not challenge Mr Parker on that statement with reference to the earlier comment as I suspect that both statements may be true; i.e. An inter Island Service was not specifically included within the tender document requirements, but it was discussed.

We had a very good meeting with Mr Parker whereby DFDS will see if they can accommodate the wishes of Motorsport into inter island services and both DFDS and ourselves recognising that a superior inter island service in the future will require discussion and negotiation with all four current ferry providers.

Although it was not probably the focus of the Scrutiny meeting, the original Ferry Tender process did appear to demonstrate a failure of pan CI co-operation with Guernsey and Jersey pursuing different paths. There will of course be various times when each Island follows their own course, but I do think that there needs to be discussion between the Islands how they can work with each other; and not just on travel and tourism.

Ian Cuming
Chair
Jersey Sports Council