

16 January 2026 - Frederic Fokkelman

To: Scrutiny Communications <Scrutiny@gov.je>

Subject: Ferry contract

Dear Sir, Madame

This message is intended for the attention of the Economic and International Affairs Panel.

The Economic Development Minister and the team which prepared the ferry tender document stipulated that the ferry contract needed to include a fixed 'line metre' concept.

The rationale for this was stated to be the creation of a 'level playing field', whereby all users of the ferry services were to be charged the same shipping charge for freight vehicles per line metre used by the vehicles.

The introduction of this contractual requirement has caused the large user of the shipping service for freight to have to raise its charges.

However, as an occasional user of a smaller haulage company based in the Island which provides a shipping service to and from the Island it is found that the company has raised its charges by a substantial percentage. In particular, the shipping charges for an certain item from the UK to Jersey were £30.00 before. Following the change to DFDS the cost of shipping the very same item from the UK to Jersey is now quoted as £85.00.

It occurs to me that tinkering with competition in the commercial sphere of the economy by Government may well have unintended consequences. Who is paying? All of us.

Thank you for bringing this message to the Panel.

Regards

Frederic Fokkelman