



Andrew Hodgson
Chair
Friends of the Ferries across the Mersey
39 South Parade
West Kirby
Wirral
CH48 0QG

By email to: adhodgson@talktalk.net

3rd July 2017

Dear Mr Hodgson

RE: Royal Daffodil
Our Ref: 10434

Thank you for your letter to Steve Rotheram, Metro Mayor for the Liverpool City Region, in which you detail your concerns around one of our Mersey Ferries, Royal Daffodil. I am responding as Head of Paid Service for the Combined Authority.

Thank you for providing the background and detail in this case.

Through your meeting with Cllr Robinson, I am sure that you are aware of the aims of our longer term Ferries Strategy, in effect looking to ensure that the Mersey Ferries are an asset that the region can benefit from for generations to come, and also reduce reliance upon public subsidy.

This long term strategy suggests a range of interventions aimed at achieving our overall objectives, including for example the potential of new vessels in years to come. This is an important factor, because, if we are going to see ferries during future generations, we cannot rely on our current vessel fleet to be here and as reliable in 20 to 30 years time.

Frank Rogers
Head of Paid Service
Liverpool City Region
Mann Island, PO Box 1976, Liverpool, L69 3HN



In terms of Royal Daffodil, the strategy does indicate that the future demand for current operations is two vessels. We will continue to review that over time and as demand varies - including demand from corporate or charter hire arrangements. The strategy goes on to suggest that we look at options on how Royal Daffodil can be preserved moving forward, perhaps through transfer of ownership to a third party/ trust group who may retain her for the purposes that you suggest.

I know that officers are working on such arrangements, but would stress at this stage no decision has been made on her longer term future. What is clear is that the current uncertainty about her future cannot run indefinitely and we must look to conclude this matter over the next 12 months in order to ensure we can be clear over plans for her future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Rogers".

Frank Rogers
Head of Paid Service
Liverpool City Region

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Mann Island, PO Box 1976, Liverpool, L69 3HN