

June 2024 CTF meeting – DRC

CalMac Disruption – Dunoon – Gourock

There have been recent changes to the 489 bus service and foot ferry timetables, introduced without as far as I'm aware without pre-consultation with Community Councils. This has had a knock on effect to those travelling to/from Dunoon/Glasgow. I've done some analysis on the impact of these changes on certain services see page 3.

You can see where travelling time has been improved, and in some cases made worse. Of concern is the amount of time for some of the transfers which are rather tight, and for some mobility impaired individuals may be impossible. As ABC are ultimately responsible for the bus service I've made the Dunoon ABC Councillors plus William Sinclair aware as presumably ABC sanctioned these changes to the bus service.

Turning now to the disruption. At 17:52 a week last Friday our Secretary was advised by CalMac of cancellations to the CalMac service from Monday 3rd June;

“Due to crew hours of rest impact with the service vessels using an alternative overnight berth from the

3rd June to 30 June**

Monday to Saturday

the following sailings are cancelled

Departing Gourock 1005, 1135, 1835, 2010

Departing Dunoon 1035, 1205, 1905, 2040

*** We will give an update to sailings after 30th June week commencing 24th June, so will be able to give you a position by 28th June latest.*

Additionally, to allow for the weekly change of core crew at an alternative overnight berth, for the remainder of the summer timetable the 2235 ex Gourock and 2305 ex-Dunoon are cancelled.”

The cancellations which affect the services I did the bus analysis on are highlighted in red on page 4.

I've made enquiries of CalMac (Finlay MacRae, Head of Operations) and have been advised;

“.....unfortunately, four return sailings between Gourock and Dunoon have been cancelled Monday-Saturday throughout June due to a combination of overnight berthing and crew hours of rest. This is the result of one of the Bute service vessels having to berth in Gourock due to the Rothesay pier settlement works being carried out by Argyll and Bute Council.

Additionally, the change to the service was necessary to improve the safe access for the vessel's crew(s) The requirement to berth the Dunoon service vessels at James Watt dock has resulted in an increase in the working hours for the vessel's crew and therefore the crew being non-compliant with the legally required crew hours of rest. We did try to cover the required breaks with additional crew but that has not been possible in the short term, a review of the crew requirements is underway and will be completed as soon as possible, which we'll confirm as soon as we can. Once it became evident that there was a regulatory compliance issue, we had to act swiftly to correct that, and the only option was to remove sailings from the timetable. A review was completed to assess the impact of these changes

and the sailings removed from the timetable were the ones that resulted in the least impact on passengers using this route, with lowest demand and avoiding missing key connections to rail.

We totally appreciate this is unwelcome and further erodes trust and choice on the service but hope this helps explain the requirement for the changes we had to make at short notice.”

Upon further investigation I then discovered that as a result of work ABC is carrying out to Rothesay Harbour, it's the Rothesay ferry that is berthing overnight at Gourock, displacing both of the Dunoon Ferries to James Watt Marina.

I've queried whether ABC were aware of this at the time the work on Rothesay Pier was authorised and have yet to receive a satisfactory answer.

So, for how long has this disruption been known about? As the owners of both Rothesay and Dunoon harbours, was any account taken of the already shocking state of the Dunoon / Gourock service? For ABC to then be pro-actively involved in a further degradation of the service seems unthinkable

It does indicate to me that the Dunoon Gourock Service not seen as a priority service by ABC in its decision making processes.

Kirstie Reid (Vice Convenor, Strachur CC) was attending the Clyde Kintyre and islands ferry group on Thursday last as was due to bring it up there too.

David Clough
Dunoon Community Council (Transport lead)
8th June 2024.

489 - old v new timetable June 2nd 2024 V2.3 with June cancelled services.xlsx

489 Bus Service / CalMac Ferry / Scotrail - example morning Monday to Friday																							
	Transfer time		Transfer time		Transfer time		Transfer time		Transfer time		Transfer time		Transfer time		Transfer time								
489 Blairmore - Farm Road End	08:00		09:00		09:55		11:00		11:55		13:00		Scotrail Glasgow Central Depart	15:35		16:25		16:55		17:27		17:36	
489 Dunoon Ferry Terminal arrive	08:39		09:41		10:42		11:41		12:41		13:41		Scotrail Gourock Arrive	16:26		17:08		17:36		18:07		18:27	
CalMac Dunoon Ferry depart	08:45	00:06	09:50	00:09	10:50	00:08	11:50	00:09	12:50	00:09	13:50	00:09	CalMac Gourock Ferry Depart	16:50	00:24	17:20	00:12	17:50	00:14	18:20	00:13	18:50	00:23
CalMac Dunoon Ferry arrives Gourock	09:10		10:15		11:15		12:15		13:15		14:15		CalMac Gourock Ferry arrives Dunoon	17:15		17:45		18:15		18:45		19:15	
Scotrail Gourock Depart	09:42	00:32	10:42	00:27	11:42	00:27	12:42	00:27	13:42	00:27	14:42	00:27	489 Dunoon Ferry Terminal depart	17:50	00:35	17:50	00:05	18:50	00:35	18:50	00:05	19:58	00:43
Scotrail Glasgow Central Arrive	10:33		11:32		12:32		13:32		14:34		15:33		489 Blairmore - Farm Road End	18:25		18:25		19:25		19:25		20:27	
Elapsed time	02:33		02:32		02:37		02:32		02:39		02:33			02:50		02:00		02:30		01:58		02:51	
489 Toward Lighthouse	08:22		09:22		10:22		11:22		12:22		13:22		Scotrail Glasgow Central Depart	15:35		16:25		16:55		17:27		17:36	
489 Dunoon Ferry Terminal arrive	08:43		09:43		10:43		11:43		12:43		13:43		Scotrail Gourock Arrive	16:26		17:08		17:36		18:07		18:27	
CalMac Dunoon Ferry depart	08:45	00:02	09:50	00:07	10:50	00:07	11:50	00:07	12:50	00:07	13:50	00:07	CalMac Gourock Ferry Depart	16:50	00:24	17:20	00:12	17:50	00:14	18:20	00:13	18:50	00:23
CalMac Dunoon Ferry arrives Gourock	09:10		10:15		11:15		12:15		13:15		14:15		CalMac Gourock Ferry arrives Dunoon	17:15		17:45		18:15		18:45		19:15	
Scotrail Gourock Depart	09:42	00:32	10:42	00:27	11:42	00:27	12:42	00:27	13:42	00:27	14:42	00:27	489 Dunoon Ferry Terminal depart	17:50	00:35	17:50	00:05	19:21	01:06	19:21	00:36	19:58	00:43
Scotrail Glasgow Central Arrive	10:33		11:32		12:32		13:32		14:34		15:33		489 Toward Lighthouse	18:09		18:09		19:39		19:39		20:27	
Elapsed time	02:11		02:10		02:10		02:10		02:12		02:11			02:34		01:44		02:44		02:12		02:51	
New timetable from 2nd June																							
489 Blairmore - Farm Road End	08:00		09:40		10:45		11:40		12:45		13:40		Scotrail Glasgow Central Depart	15:35		16:06		16:32		17:19		17:36	
489 Dunoon Ferry Terminal arrive	08:39		10:26		11:26		12:26		13:26		14:26		Scotrail Gourock Arrive	16:15		16:45		17:13		18:00		18:16	
CalMac Dunoon Ferry depart	09:05	00:26	10:35	00:09	11:35	00:09	12:35	00:09	13:35	00:09	14:35	00:09	CalMac Gourock Ferry Depart	16:35	00:20	17:05	00:20	17:35	00:22	18:10	00:10	18:35	00:19
CalMac Dunoon Ferry arrives Gourock	09:30		11:00		12:00		13:00		14:00		15:00		CalMac Gourock Ferry arrives Dunoon	17:00		17:30		18:00		18:35		19:00	
Scotrail Gourock Depart	09:56	00:26	11:26	00:26	12:26	00:26	13:26	00:26	14:26	00:26	15:26	00:26	489 Dunoon Ferry Terminal depart	17:35	00:35	17:35	00:05	18:35	00:35	19:58	01:23	19:58	00:58
Scotrail Glasgow Central Arrive	10:37		12:07		13:07		14:07		15:09		16:07		489 Blairmore - Farm Road End	18:10		18:10		19:10		20:27		20:27	
Elapsed time	02:37		02:27		02:22		02:27		02:24		02:27			02:35		02:04		02:38		03:08		02:51	
Extra time (+) Quicker (-)	00:04		-00:05		-00:15		-00:05		-00:15		-00:06		Extra time (+) Quicker (-)	-00:15		00:04		00:08		01:10		00:00	
489 Toward Lighthouse	08:05		09:07		10:07		11:07		12:07		13:07		Scotrail Glasgow Central Depart	15:35		16:06		16:32		17:19		17:36	
489 Dunoon Ferry Terminal arrive	08:27		09:28		10:28		11:28		12:28		13:28		Scotrail Gourock Arrive	16:15		16:45		17:13		18:00		18:16	
CalMac Dunoon Ferry depart	08:35	00:08	09:35	00:07	10:35	00:07	11:35	00:07	12:35	00:07	13:35	00:07	CalMac Gourock Ferry Depart	16:35	00:20	17:05	00:20	17:35	00:22	18:10	00:10	18:35	00:19
CalMac Dunoon Ferry arrives Gourock	09:00		10:00		11:00		12:00		13:00		14:00		CalMac Gourock Ferry arrives Dunoon	17:00		17:30		18:00		18:35		19:00	
Scotrail Gourock Depart	09:26	00:26	10:26	00:26	11:26	00:26	12:26	00:26	13:26	00:26	14:26	00:26	489 Dunoon Ferry Terminal depart	17:35	00:35	17:35	00:05	19:21	01:21	19:21	00:46	19:21	00:21
Scotrail Glasgow Central Arrive	10:09		11:07		12:07		13:07		14:07		15:09		489 Toward Lighthouse	17:54		17:54		19:39		19:39		19:39	
Elapsed time	02:04		02:00		02:00		02:00		02:00		02:02			02:19		01:48		03:07		02:20		02:03	
Extra time (+) Quicker (-)	-00:11		-00:10		-00:10		-00:10		-00:12		-00:09		Extra time (+) Quicker (-)	-00:15		00:04		00:23		00:08		-00:48	

Source Data - 489 Timetable as provided by Argyll and Bute Council, CalMac/ Scotrail as per CalMac Web site



489 - old v new timetable June 2nd ;