



**George Lyon
MSP**

Scottish Parliamentary Report

March 2006

Lyon Backs Kay Proposals for Gourock/Dunoon Ferry

Following revelations that Caledonian MacBrayne are losing £2m a year on the Gourock/Dunoon route, local MSP George Lyon has called on the Transport Minister to implement the Kay proposals as quickly as possible. Prof. Neil Kay put forward proposals to the Scottish Executive in 2004 which concluded ***“that it was possible to run a commercial***



***Transport Minister Tavish Scott at
Rothesay Pier***

unsubsidised frequent bow and stern loading service on this route while protecting existing levels of fares”.

As a result the Scottish Executive abandoned its original proposals for a passenger only service and agreed instead to implement the Kay proposals which recommended seeking a commercial operator for the Caledonian MacBrayne route. George Lyon said; “Prof. Kay’s view that it is possible to run a commercial unsubsidised service on this route, if correct it would guarantee ongoing competition on the route which is so important to Dunoon and it would comply with European State Aid rules.”

Major Housing Investment Planned for Mull

Following extensive representations by local MSP George Lyon about the housing crisis on Mull, the Communities Minister Johan Lamont MSP, has announced a £7.3m Housing Investment Programme for the Island, which will result in 80 new



Discussing housing on Mull

houses being built between now and 2009. George Lyon said: ***"This tenfold increase in the housing budget for Mull is a dramatic step up in the Scottish Executive's response to the housing crisis on the Island. I will be pressing Communities Scotland to ensure that this programme is delivered as swiftly as possible to try and meet the urgent demand for socially rented housing on Mull."***

Transport Minister Keeps Alive Campbeltown/ Ballycastle Tender



As a result of last minute representations from local MSP George Lyon, Transport Minister, Tavish Scott MSP, has agreed to keep alive the Campbeltown/ Ballycastle tender process. Negotiations have now begun with the two companies who have