WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY DEPUTY H.L. JEUNE OF ST. JOHN, ST. LAWRENCE AND TRINITY QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 27th JANUARY 2025 ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2025

Ouestion

"Will the Minister advise whether the Government will continue funding contingency ferries after the contract with Condor ends in March, and if they intend to do so, will the Minister provide details of the contingency arrangements and their implications in terms of the DFDS contract, and if not, why not?"

Answer

The contingency arrangements are in place until the 31st March 2025. These have been in place to ensure continuity in the Island's supply chain given the continued ambiguity over the current operator's ability to underwrite any commitment through to expiry of the existing Operating Agreement.

There is no intention to extend these contingency arrangements beyond March 2025 when the new Operating Agreement will take effect. Ensuring strong financial due diligence of any future operator was an important element in the procurement process which has consequently removed the need for ongoing contingency under the new Operating Agreement.