



24/09/2021

Dr Murdoch M Macleod
Deputy Director , Finance (Financial Services)
And Location Director for the Outer Hebrides
The Scottish Government
Room 3A North, Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Dear Dr Macleod,

Reference : Aquaculture Drying / Recycling Facility in North Uist

Thank you for your recent telephone call to enquire on the progress of our salmon waste drying and recycling project in North Uist. Now that the Covid 19 restrictions have eased considerably it has allowed the designer of the equipment and the engineers to return to Uist to complete the final connections and electrical switchgear. We expect the plant and machinery to all be in place by early November . We are in constant dialogue with SEPA regarding our Part A PPC application and our consultants should have the necessary data to submit the application within the next few weeks. We are also working on our licence application with the Animal Health Dept to allow us to render and produce animal by products.

We received excellent support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise with our project which resulted in grant funding to assist with the purchase of the equipment. The proposed fifteen employment opportunities are seen as vital to the North Uist economy.

In respect of your continued interest and following the visit to our site by yourself and Kate Forbes MSP in the latter part of 2019 we would like to formally invite you and Kate back to Uist to see the completed project. We would respectfully also extend the invitation to the Cabinet Secretary, Mairi Gougeon and Deputy First Minister, John Swinney, who we believe would both have an interest in seeing first hand our innovative plant , which will help to ensure the long term viability of fish farming in the Western Isles, as well as visiting a unique part of Scotland which I believe they both have an interest in.

In terms of security and Covid restrictions, if required, the visit would be unpublicised and the only other persons present would be the staff of Whiteshore Cockles Ltd and the local representative of H.I.E. (<redacted>) whom you met with on your last trip.

My suggested itinerary would be :

A date in late autumn to fit in with everyone's diaries - I appreciate the difficulty this may cause. Collected by private jet from Edinburgh airport mid morning and a flight to Benbecula airport which would take approximately half an hour in a Citation CJ4. Collected from Benbecula by Whiteshore staff and driven to North Uist for a three hour visit. A 'Uist' lunch at a facility we have overlooking Vallay Island to which a visit can be arranged if requested. A return flight to Edinburgh which would leave late afternoon. If the party wish to visit any other facility in the Uist during their trip I can easily organise this.

The jet is operated by one of my friends, Mr <redacted> of the Roe Group (They have a depot in Edinburgh) who has a house in Uist and he will coincide the trip with a visit for a few days. <redacted> is very keen to promote or assist any island person / business and has made his plane available to me before for charity auctions.

Thank you once again for your continued interest and advice which is very much appreciated by our small family company and we would all be delighted if you could manage to facilitate a visit as suggested.

<redacted>