

## **PRESS RELEASE - APPROVED**

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### **Port of Nigg Extends Support for Nigg-Cromarty Ferry Service**

Port of Nigg has announced a partnership with Highland Ferries to extend the operation of the Nigg-Cromarty ferry service for an additional two months this year. Traditionally commencing in June, the service will now start in the first week of April, providing increased connectivity for local communities and visitors.

Under the agreement, Port of Nigg - owned and operated by Global Energy Group - will fund the extended ferry service, ensuring greater accessibility across the Cromarty Firth during the busy spring months. The Highland Council will also contribute by covering the cost of concession tickets for eligible foot passengers during the additional period.

Rory Gunn, Facilities Director at Port of Nigg, commented:

“As a key part of the Ross-Shire community, we are proud to support this initiative and ensure the ferry service is available for an extended period. Port of Nigg, along with the supply chain businesses onsite, is a major employer in the region, and we recognise the importance of reliable transport links for both locals and visitors.

“This investment aligns with our commitment to supporting the communities surrounding the Cromarty Firth. We also appreciate the challenges facing local businesses, and hope that this initiative will give them a welcome boost.”

Highland Ferries, which operates the service, has welcomed the agreement and sees this as a significant step toward strengthening the ferry’s long-term sustainability.

Dougie Robertson, Owner of Highland Ferries, said:

“We are excited about this development and our growing partnership with Port of Nigg. This funding allows us to start the service earlier in the year, which not only benefits local commuters but also enhances tourism opportunities in the region. Over the last 12-months we’ve invested in key improvements to the service, including new adapted access and upgraded engines. Looking ahead, we aim to further develop this vital service and work towards acquiring a larger ferry to accommodate more passengers.”

The Nigg-Cromarty ferry service runs from 08:00 to 18:00, operating every 20 to 30 minutes. The extension of the service is expected to provide significant benefits to local businesses, residents, and visitors exploring the area.

David Summers, Principal Transport Officer for The Highland Council, added:

“We are pleased to be supporting this initiative to extend the ferry’s operating season, and confirm that as a scheduled service the extra two months are eligible to be included in the concessionary ticket scheme. Ensuring access to reliable transport links is crucial for both local communities and tourism, and we welcome the collaboration between Port of Nigg and Highland Ferries in making this happen.”

Cllr Ken Gowans, Chair of Highland Council’s Economy and Infrastructure Committee added: “We are pleased to be supporting this initiative to extend the ferry’s operating season and confirm that as a scheduled service the extra two months are eligible to be included in the concessionary ticket scheme. Ensuring access to reliable transport links is crucial for both local communities and tourism, and we welcome the collaboration between Port of Nigg and Highland Ferries in making this happen.”

The extended ferry service reinforces the commitment of Port of Nigg to the sustainable growth of the region, further enhancing connectivity and economic opportunities for businesses and residents alike.

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