

Minutes of cross party group on aviation

Date: Wednesday 8 March 2017

Location: Room 1.03, Scottish Parliament

MSP Attendees:

John Scott (JS) (Convenor)

David Stewart (DS) (Co-Convenor)

Stewart Stevenson (SS) (Co-Convenor)

Humza Yousaf, (The Minister) (Minister for Transport and Islands) (Speaker)

Non MSP Attendees:

Mike Stewart (MS)	Business Development Director	Glasgow Prestwick Airport
Lorna Smith (LS)	Communications & Marketing Supervisor	Glasgow Prestwick Airport
Steve Graham (SGr)	Head of prospective centre services	NATS
Derick Murray (DM)	Director	Nestrans
Ramsay Milne (RM)	Chair	Nestrans
David McColm (DMc)	Managing Director	Global Trek Aviation
Janice Hogarth (JH)	SPAA Secretary	SPAA
James McColm (JM)	CEO	Ardaire House
Gordon Dewar (GD)	CEO	Edinburgh Airport
Gary Cox (GC)	Head of Aviation	Transport Scotland
David Hughes (DH)	Ext Affairs Manager	Virgin Atlantic
Tim Alderslade (TA)	CEO	Airlines UK
Peter Carroll	Communications Manager	Glasgow Airport
Roddie MacPhee (RMac)	Manager	Barrhead Travel
Robyn Halberry	Head of Office, Graham Simpson MSP	

Apologies:

Henk Van Klaveren	Airport Operator's Association
Ali Gayward	Easyjet
Ranald Robertson	HITRANS
Gordon Bingham	Global Trek
Ian Clarke	NATS
George Adam	MSP
Denise Hill	
Gareth Williams	SCDI
William Wilson	
Kirsten Sweeney	Glasgow Prestwick Airport
Tavesh Scott	MSP
Diogo Castanheira	Hainan airlines
Ryan Zhang Yang	Hainan airlines

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Description	Discussion points	Action
ITEM 1: Welcome and apologies		
ITEM 2: Election of secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Glasgow Prestwick Airport elected. - Minutes from previous meeting to be sent out. - Group is very grateful for Edinburgh's help in previous meetings. 	AGREED by cross party group
ITEM 3:	<p>The Minister summarised possible discussion points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conducted appraisal on the Arran Ferry Service, whether it should continue operating from Ardrossan or relocate to Troon. - SG looked carefully at the London airport hub expansion options and decided to support the Heathrow expansion. This will bring a number of potential benefits to Scotland, both in terms of supply, manufacture, and logistics. - APD is an issue that has continued to dominate discussions. Parliament process has shown a slight change in position but are aware there are a lot of technicalities that have to be looked at and considered before a fixed decision is taken. - The Minister advised that Primary legislation on APD is likely to come before the summer recess. - SG is looking at connectivity to new markets and route development. Routes to Asia/South Asia/West Coast USA and South America are all missing from the Scottish portfolio. - Reviewing ground access re: Glasgow airport rail link. - Also looking at whether a rail link is possible for Edinburgh. - Minister has acknowledged that the recent spate of violence on board aircraft is unacceptable. - Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Michael Matheson is attending Glasgow Airport to discuss this on 16 March, 2017. - Minister noted that there has been a huge growth in passenger numbers at Inverness airport. - Internal flights to Islands will also be discussed, and future options will be examined. 	
ITEM 4: Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RM thanked the Minister for his continued support of Aberdeen Airport. 	

	<p>Stated they recently invested in a bus turning circle and mentioned that Stagecoach were in the process of withdrawing their bus link. RM asked the Minister for support. The Minister said he was more than happy to take this up with Stagecoach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- DM wanted to know if something could be done to bring back the Surface Access Strategy at each airport.- SS wanted to know if there was a possibility of introducing a multimode ticket which would provide transport to every one of Scotland's major airports and key tourist sites/venues and would this deliver any benefits.- The Minister stated that smart ticketing has a long way to go. SG are engaged in the National Transport Strategy and will look at the previous Surface Access Strategy.- TA asked if SG still committed to APD reduction by 2018. <p>Minister replied SG in discussion with other parties. There are ongoing discussions over APD and longhaul flights. Minister advised that banding is likely to come into parliament before summer recess.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- JH stated that new routes based on reduction should be looked at for Europe and long haul.- It was noted that APD has been increased in the past which caused huge confusion, and there could be more confusion with cuts.- Austria is cutting their APD.- MS was asked to briefly explain GPA's spaceport bid.- GPA has been heavily involved in developing the spaceport opportunity over the past 18 months and it is going to happen. <p>The process of becoming a spaceport is no longer a bid, but is now a licencing one. Legislation is currently going through the UK parliament that will provide the mechanism to approve a spaceport operator's license and it is hoped this legislation might be in place by mid-2018. The UK government has given a commitment that the first space launch from the UK will take place by 2020, and to support this they have recently requested joint bids from potential spaceports and launch operators so they can determine where the best option(s) likely to succeed within that</p>	
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	<p>timescale are, and where support funding will be best allocated. Glasgow Prestwick Airport are currently working with a number of strategic partners to prepare what they believe will be an extremely strong bid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- MS stated this is a good thing for all potential UK spaceport sites and wants to encourage joined up thinking across Scotland. A network of potential launch sites and launch operators across Scotland, providing support to each other would make Scotland an extremely strong space launch proposition for the UK.- MS was asked if the spaceport license would be a separate licence, or an extension to the current airport one. From discussions already held with the regulatory authorities, MS believed it would most likely be an extension to the existing airport license.- DM stated that disruptive passengers are having a massive impact on board flights. Wanted to know what discussions had been had with the DFT.- The Minister mentioned a code on disruptive passengers. Will need to see if it is working, or if it needs time. Legislative solution is always a last resort. SG needs to look at what they should be doing - campaigns, marketing. SG needs feedback on what is and isn't working.- TA asked if SG is willing to go further than the DFT. Their numbers show that cases of disruptive passengers have gone up, is this mostly to do with alcohol? He asked if there should be a restriction on buying alcohol.- GD stated this needed to be a facts and data led campaign. Stated that it is currently illegal to drink duty free alcohol on board a flight and there should be discussions on controlling this.- The Minister agreed that everything should be driven by data. He stated that SG has a good relationship with the DFT and they have had positive discussions, but if SG have to take different measures then they will.- The sharing of best practice was agreed.- SS stated it was a hugely important matter – the public should feel safe and there isn't a	
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	<p>hard enough stance taken against disruptive passengers. He asked why is it necessary for airport pubs to be open at 4/5am?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- SGr agreed to share stats of diverted flights caused by disruptive passengers with cross party group.- <i>The Minister left.</i>	
ITEM 5: AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- JS suggested disruptive passengers be the topic for next meeting.- Everyone is to send contact details to LS of names for invite list for next meeting.- TA has most of the contacts and will send to LS.- Everyone to think of subjects for future meetings.- DM asked thoughts on inter-Scot flights. Aberdeen – GLA for example. And whether any proposed new flights could be discouraged to support the rail network.- Agreed that making these flights viable would be very difficult, but the market would decide which mode of transport would be most viable.	Topic AGREED by cross party group.
ITEM 6: Future meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- JS requested a volunteer for sponsorship for next meeting. No volunteers stepped forward.- JS stated next meeting will be end of June. Final date to be confirmed.- JH asked for dates to be set for the rest of the year.- It was agreed that Wednesdays worked best for everyone.- <i>Meeting ends.</i>	