

Minutes of the Cross-Part Group on Aviation

Date: 14th May 2019

Time: 6pm-8pm

Venue: Committee Room 5

MSPs attendees:

David Stewart – Convenor

John Scott – Co-Convenor

Bill Bowman

Stuart Stevenson

Non MSPs attendees:

Roddie MacPhee	Barrhead Travel
John Davidson	Aviation for schools
Ian Clarke	NATS
Steve Graham	NATS
Maurizio Tomasella	University of Edinburgh
Mike Parker	Parliamentary Researcher
Daniel Smith	Skyrora
Vladimir Levykin	Skyrora
Brian McClean	AGS Airports
Sandy MacPherson	SPAA (Scottish Passengers Agents' Association)
David Paterson	Flybe
Phill Rawlins	Martyn Fiddler Aviation
Warrick Malcolm	ADS
Konrad Zadecki	ADS

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and apologies

David Stewart MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting and accepted apologies.

Agenda Item 2 - Approval of minutes from previous meeting and matters arising

Minutes from the previous meeting have been accepted.

Received reply letter from Baroness Sugg, Transport Minister for Aviation, International and Security, however Baroness Sugg since was appointed as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for International Development. New letter to be sent out
Members of the group been asked to forward details of the suggested speakers for future meetings

Agenda Item 3 – Air Passenger Duty - Air Departure Tax (ADT) - discussion

Following recent announcement and discussion the group has expressed a disappointment on the decision and highlighted that more work would need to be done on cutting emission.

Looking from customer perspective not many ask about APD however it makes a huge impact and passengers being unfairly hit twice.

It was agreed the group will issue a letter to the Scottish Government representatives to invite to the future meetings to hear more regarding the Governments emerging thinking on ADT, its aspirations regarding aviation and support for the industry.

Agenda Item 4 – Scottish Space Sector – presentation from Skyrora

Vladimir Levykin from Skyrora gave a presentation on Edinburgh based launch vehicle designer, manufacturer and service provider highlighting company's approach, strategy, vision and progress. with key points: - to build a rocket of its own—very similar in its core propulsion system to the innovative Black Arrow— which will launch satellites under a British flag; - potential way forward for the industry - Ecosene synthetic fuel from waste plastic, overview of Skyrora XL rocket - three stage orbital launch vehicle designed to launch a 315 kg payload to Polar and Sun synchronous orbits.

Vladimir Levykin highlighted company's values inspiring the next generation of rocket scientists to pursue careers in space, visiting schools through pioneering STEM Outreach programme.

Highlighting future opportunities and demand in the space sector it has also been underlined that despite launch sites receiving government support and supportive political, regulatory and funding environment, regulations & bureaucracy is an issue affecting the sector.

With 136 space companies in Scotland collaboration has been identified as a key in securing Scotland as a space exploration and innovation global hub.

Agenda Item 5 – Next meeting

The next meeting has been scheduled for the 1 October 2019, 6pm-8pm

The following meeting has been scheduled for 3 December 2019

David Stewart MSP thanked Vladimir Levykin for the presentation

The meeting ends