

Minutes of the Cross-Party Group on Aviation

Date: 1st October 2019

Time: 6pm – 8pm

Venue: Committee Room 5, Scottish Parliament

MSPs attendees:

David Stewart – Convener

Maurice Corry

Bill Bowman

Stewart Stevenson

Non MSPs attendees:

Scott Hammond – Shetland Space Centre

Daniel Smith – Skyrora / AstroAgency

Greg Maxwell – Edinburgh Airport

John Davidson – Aviation for schools

Julie Cromarty – HITRANS

Ian Clarke – NATS

John Innes – Leonardo

Tavish Scott – Shetland Space Centre

Jonathan Hinkles – Loganair

David Paterson – Flybe

Erfu Yang – University of Strathclyde

Maurizio Tomasella – University of Edinburgh

Mike Parker – Parliamentary Researcher

James McColm

Gordon Bingham – Global Trek Aviation

Steve Szalay – Aberdeen International Airport

Dave Kistruck – Virgin Atlantic

Warrick Malcolm – ADS Scotland

Konrad Zadecki – ADS Scotland

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and apologies

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

Agenda Item 4 - Loganair - Scotland's regional airline

Jonathan Hinkles, Managing Director – Loganair gave a presentation on route development and an update on Loganair's progress and services to and from the islands:

Business perspective:

- UK's fifth largest airline
- 860 people operating 44 aircrafts
- fly to more UK airports than any other airline
- diverse business (68% scheduled flights, 21% charter & contract, subsidy 6%, other scheduled 5%)
- only airline offering full baggage allowance

Key challenges:

- fuel & EU carbon emission permits
- adverse move in US Dollar, FX rates since EU referendum
- EU 261 customer compensation rules
- pilot turnover amidst worldwide shortage – but slowing
- weakening consumer environment
- specific to Loganair: HIAL industrial action

New markets:

- the majority of new routes replace other airlines
- but also new routes in own flights

Deciding on new routes: process

1. Research
2. Data from travel agents' systems
3. Plus internet searches
4. Extrapolation of CAA data for a gross error check

Environment:

- key focus area for the entire industry
- Environment Action Group in place with Loganair
 - all in-flight service materials recycled, compostable since 2018
 - all new ramp vehicles are electric
 - new staff uniforms from recycled materials from October 2020
 - Electric Islander project for Orkney inter-isles flights by late 2021
 - fuel efficiency programmes
- passengers pay £3.2bn in Air Passenger Duty
- airlines paying over £300m in fuel taxes EU ETS
- for many journeys' aviation emissions lower than alternatives

Agenda Item 5 – The Shetland Space Centre

Scott Hammond from Shetland Space centre gave a presentation on launching site for small satellites for lower orbit:

1. Background information on Launch UK and Secondary Regulations: (Launch Site, Launch Provider)
2. Background and Experience
 - Est September 2017
 - Ex-military
 - Aviation Experience: Prestwick, Norwich, Maastricht
 - Shetland Businesses: facilities management, security, tourism, distillery
3. The small satellite market and the UK
 - low earth orbit
 - primarily Polar / Sun Synchronous orbits
4. Why Shetland?
 - location
 - direct trajectories
 - clear sea
 - airspace

- existing infrastructure: large area for development, excellent logistics and support services, local support

5. Logistics

- 27 flights a day to: Aberdeen, Inverness, Bergen, Manchester, Glasgow

- two major Deep Water ports

5. Launch – what is planned?

- satellite launch site for small satellites, similar to Rocket Lab in New Zealand

- integration building and launch pad

- not just a launch site – plans to create a Space Centre at SoXSA Vord to take advantage of geographical position (international competition)

Agenda Item 2, 6 and Actions:

David Stewart MSP thanked Jonathan Hinkles and Scott Hammond for excellent presentations

The Group agreed for the Cross-Party Group to be changed to Cross-Party Group on Aviation and Space

Invitation for Group Officers to Beatrice Wishart MSP following Tavish Scott departure

ADS Scotland has been elected to continue as Secretariat to the Group

Thomas Cook collapse – agenda item for the next meeting

The next meeting has been scheduled for 3rd December 2019

The meeting ends