

Minutes of the Cross Party Group on Aviation
23 February 2016
Committee Room 3, Scottish Parliament

MSP Attendees:

Colin Keir (Convener); John Scott; Chic Brodie; Dave Stewart (Deputy Conveners)

Non-MSP Attendees:

Erik Geddes (Secretary)	Edinburgh Airport
Gary Clark	Scottish Chamber of Commerce
Denny MacGee	British Airways
Brian Mclean	Glasgow Airport
Ian Clarke	NATS
Luke Law	NATS
Janice Hogarth	SPAA
Roddie MacPhee	Barrhead Travel
Phil Ward	Jet2
Nathan Stower	BATA
Tim Alderslade	AOA
David Hodges	Virgin Atlantic
Paul McDonald	Police Scotland
Ailsa Williams	Portland Communications (Jet2)
James McColm	Ardaire House Co
Jie Song	Wangping Travel Ltd
Wing Sie Ng	Transworld Trading Ltd
Kam Leung Ng	Transworld Trading Ltd
Gordon Bingham	Global Trek Aviation
David McColm	Global Trek Aviation
Emma McKenzie	Office of Colin Keir MSP
Rob Munn	Office of Colin Keir MSP

Apologies:

Derek Murray (Nestrans); Andrea Hayes (Flybe); Mark Ramsden (EasyJet); Peter Muller-MacDougall (Hon. Consul Gen. Switzerland); David Birrell (Edinburgh Chamber); Gordon Dewar (Edinburgh Airport); Mark Stuart (HIAL); Malcolm Robertson; Dennis Robertson MSP

Item 1: Welcome and apologies

Item 2: Approval of draft minutes from May 2015 – Agreed by CPG

Item 3: APD Forum

- Discussion of SG proposal for 50% reduction
- Issues raised about lead in time

Item 4: Heathrow/Gatwick new runway

- CPG members expressed disappointment with continued delay
- Concerns raised about impacts on Scottish airports
- BA raised concern at costings being passed on to operators and passengers

Item 5: Jet 2 Antisocial Passenger Initiative

- Phil Ward from Jet2 presented an overview of their proactive policy of dealing with disruptive passengers
- Outlined 'airside' behaviour; campus watch; tamper proof duty free bags – working with airports on these issues
- Working with BATA, zero tolerance to disruptive behaviour
- 800 disruptive behaviour events 85% on outbound flights; 57 passengers banned for life over the past year
- Issue of illicit drinking of duty free purchases – airports working with retailers and airlines to curb this – tamper proof bags
- Issues such as strength of some beers sold in 'airside' bars – 8% proof in some cases. Sales via ipads off premises
- Initiatives such as 'Best Bar None' accreditation could help by setting standards and behaviour
- Crew training to deal with disruptive passengers and identify potential problems.
- **Discussion**
- Chief Inspector Paul McDonald Police Scotland, Chair UK Commanders Group
- PM outlined work Police Scotland carries out with Airports/Airlines to promote preventative measures – Campus Watch at Glasgow Airport, similar approach at Edinburgh Airport
- Staff training
- Nathan Stower (BATA) said a variety of carriers brought forward issues and there was an industry wide meeting to discuss issues including covert consumption of alcohol. Agreed a range of steps and retailers etc being approached to sign up.
- CK asked about the licencing regime 'airside'- premises are classed as 'relevant premises' and conditions attached where different to normal licenced premises. JS asked if this was an issue to be brought to government.
- RM (Barrhead Travel) suggested there were messages that agents could get across to customers very early. Raised issue of departure lounge problem and why intoxicated people are allowed on to aircraft
- NS replied, working on a code of conduct with carriers as a first step to take this forward
- **Action** – issue can be pursued by future CPG Aviation

Item 6: Reports from Airports and Airlines

- Airports present gave updates
- CB gave update on developments at Prestwick from his knowledge
- DH Virgin Atlantic said joint venture with Delta growing
- DM BA would be going back into Inverness; also joint venture links to US.

Item 7: Review of the work of CPG Aviation 2011-2016

- An outline was circulated with key items highlighted
- CK said a fuller report would be written and circulated to the group
- **Action CK to produce report**

Item 8: Handover for next Parliamentary Session

- Agreement that the CPG Aviation had been a useful forum bringing key players together and appetite to continue in next session.
- CK suggested that CPG members liaise via Erik Geddes, Comms Manager Edinburgh Airport to pursue re-forming the group after the election. EK gave undertaking to do this. Group accepted.

Item 9: AOB

- JS raised the passing of Eric 'Winkle' Brown.
- CB thanked CK for his chairing of the CPG over the session.