

Minutes of Cross Party Group on Aviation

Date: Wednesday, 01 October 2014

Location: Committee Room 3, Scottish Parliament

MSP Attendees:

Colin Keir (CK) (Convener)
John Scott (JS) (Deputy Convener)
Chic Brodie (CB) (Deputy Convener)
David Stewart (DS) (Deputy Convener)

Non-MSP Attendees:

Ali Gayward (AG)	easyJet
Mark Ramsden (MR)	easyJet
Steve Huygens (SH)	IAG
Sarah Rochester (SR)	Aberdeen
Roddie MacPhee (RM)	Barrhead Travel
Nicola Macnaughton (NMc)	Glasgow Airport
Brian McClean (BMc)	Glasgow Airport
Paula Horne (PH)	Glasgow Prestwick Airport
Janice Hogarth (JH)	Scottish Passenger Agents Association
Roisin Milligan (RMi)	Scottish Chambers of Commerce
Garry Clark (GC)	Scottish Chambers of Commerce
James Hipperson (JH)	NATS
David Brash (DB)	NATS
Maria Zedda (MZ)	Wideaware
Mark Stuart (MS)	Highlands & Islands Airports Ltd
Stuart Young (SY)	Edinburgh Airport
Brian Donohoe MP (BD)	Chair of Westminster All Party Group on Aviation

Apologies:

Amanda McMillan	Glasgow Airport
Carol Benzie	Aberdeen Airport
Bob Schumacher	United Airlines
Malcolm Robertson	Adviser to GIP
David T Hodges	Virgin Atlantic
Denise Hill	Visit Scotland
Gordon Dewar	Edinburgh Airport
Gordon Robertson	Edinburgh Airport
David Birrell	Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce
Andrew McConnell (AMc)	Flybe
William Wilson	WF Wilson Consultancy
Ranald Robertson	HITRANS
Iain Cochrane	Glasgow Prestwick Airport

<i>Description</i>	<i>Discussion points</i>	<i>Action</i>
ITEM 1: Welcome and apologies		
ITEM 2: Approval of draft minutes from May meeting -		AGREED by Cross Party Group
ITEM 3: Matters arising		None
ITEM 4: Brian Donohoe MP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion on London capacity debate - Current work of All Party Group on Aviation at Westminster - General update on aviation industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immensely important to have country-wide dialogue on aviation. - Important to stress importance of south east capacity and further long-haul opportunities. - ‘Boris Island’ is not a popular idea. Resistance from local population would rule this plan out. - BD prefers option for third runway at LHR and said the industry must look long-term into the next 40 years. - In his personal opinion BD supports abolition of APD in staged way over two Westminster terms with 50% in 1st term and abolition in 2nd term. Advised that further discussion required at party level on this. - Further public education required on what APD is and its effects. - Discussed ongoing interest in commercial development of RAF Northolt, particularly for smaller aircraft. - JS stated interest in RAF Northolt idea and asked BD to reiterate his stance on abolishing or devolving APD. - CK also focused on Northolt and what incentive would be for carriers in Scotland to use Northolt and for passengers to fly there instead of LHR hub. - Importance of a hub airport emphasised by BMC who said that LHR services over 70 destinations that other airports don’t. - Political pressure must continue as APD issue needs to be addressed. - CB focused on the newly-created Smith 	

	<p>Commission for devolving powers to Scotland. Reiterated the infrastructure difficulties with LHR expansion proposals, issues with RAF Northolt idea and potential for increasing cargo flights to boost capacity.</p> <p>- BD pointed out that more than half of cargo is carried in commercial aircraft nowadays.</p>	
<p>ITEM 5: Maria Zedda, Director of Training at Wideaware</p> <p>- Speaking about her experience as a deaf passenger and role at Wideaware to help promote inclusion.</p> <p>- Working as a consultant with The Shaw Trust on setting up a UK-wide Accessibility Services department.</p>	<p>- Highlighted inconsistency of airline PRM services.</p> <p>- Important to change perceptions of airline/airport PRM services which will help improve passenger experience.</p> <p>- Disabled people and their families have combined consumer power of £80bn.</p>	
<p>ITEM 6: Assistance for passengers with disabilities and discussion of airline PRM report</p>	<p>- SY collated a report summarising CPG member airlines best practice on PRM provision.</p> <p>- Both airport and airline reports to be discussed at next meeting and decision to be made on how best to present findings to politicians, press and charities.</p>	<p>- Further action on report delayed until next meeting to allow further input from Flybe. DH from Virgin and AMc from Flybe to lead from airline perspective.</p>
<p>ITEM 7: The next CPG meeting will be held on 04 February 2015</p>		

Please see here below for the dates for the CPG on Aviation for the 2014/15 session. **All meetings start at 18.00.**

4th February 2015
6th May 2015