

## Minutes of Cross Party Group on Aviation

Date: Wednesday, 31 October 2012

Location: Committee Room 4, Scottish Parliament

### MSP Attendees:

Colin Keir (CK) (Convener)  
Keith Brown (KB) (Minister for Transport)  
Richard Lyle (RL)  
John Scott (JS) (Deputy Convener)  
Maureen Watt (MW)  
Gordon MacDonald (GM)  
Chic Brodie (CB)

### Non-MSP Attendees:

Derek Provan (DP)	Aberdeen Airport
Sarah Campbell (SC)	Aberdeen Airport
Andrew McConnell (AM)	easyJet
Malcolm Robertson (MR)	GIP
Brian McClean (BM)	Glasgow Airport
Derick Murray (DM)	Nestrans
Malcolm Spaven (MS)	Edinburgh Flying Club
David Birrell (DB)	Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce
Gordon Dewar (GD)	Edinburgh Airport
Gordon Robertson (GR)	Edinburgh Airport
Denise Hill (DH)	Visit Scotland
Roger Hage (RH)	Loganair
Lucy Bird (LB)	Marketing Edinburgh
Janice Hogarth (JH)	Scottish Passenger Agents Association
Nathan Stower (NS)	Virgin Atlantic
Roddie MacPhee (RM)	Barrhead Travel
Brian McLeish (BMc)	Scottish Enterprise
Carl Pheasey (CP)	British Airways
Garry Clark (GC)	Scottish Chamber of Commerce
Lorna Jack (LJ)	Edinburgh Airport
Toni Giugliano (TG)	Scottish Parliament

### Apologies:

Mark Stuart	Highlands & Islands Airports
Iain Doubtfire	Jet2.com
Iain Cochrane	Prestwick Airport
Phil Preston	Loganair
David Harrison	Loganair
Amanda McMillan	Glasgow Airport
William Wilson	

<i>Description:</i>	<i>Action</i>
<p><b>York Aviation report ‘The Impact of Air Passenger Duty on Scotland’</b>            GD presented the findings of the report and the report was discussed by the group.            All in agreement with the findings of the report.            DP requested Convener write to the Chancellor on behalf of the group asking for a review of APD.</p>	<p><b>Convener to send a letter on behalf of the CPG to Chancellor George Osborne requesting a full review of APD. Keith Brown, Danny Alexander to be copied in.</b></p> <p><b>Draft letter will be distributed to CPG for approval before it is sent.</b></p> <p><b>If business members of CPG have any examples of APD impacting on visits to Scotland, please forward to Secretary for incorporation into the letter.</b></p> <p><b>If there are any changes in APD between meetings CPG members will be updated.</b></p>
<p><b>Topics for discussion in future meetings</b></p> <p><b>Lack of route development funds.</b> EU rules on prevention of state aid provision prevented Scottish Development Route Development Fund from continuing. (BM)</p> <p><b>Regional access to Heathrow.</b> Davies Inquiry to investigate airport capacity in the UK. Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) attitude to UK Government’s Civil Aviation Bill favours larger aircraft operating from larger hubs. Should there be an amendment to the bill to take into account regional access. (DM) Questions around connectivity to Heathrow since IAG takeover of BMI. (JS)</p> <p><b>Aviation training industry in Scotland.</b> Circumstances in which the training industry operates in Scotland with regulation and taxation. (JS)</p> <p><b>Inherent employment and economic benefits of civil aviation in Scotland.</b> (CP)</p> <p><b>Direct flights to Scotland and the impact of visa processes for visitors to Scotland.</b> (CB)</p> <p><b>Border controls.</b> Would it be possible for passengers on US bound flights to clear US border control before</p>	<p><b>List of topics compiled and two topics for discussion at the next meeting will be circulated.</b></p>

<i>Description:</i>	<i>Action</i>
<p>leaving Scotland? Similar scheme currently operates in the RoI. (JH)</p> <p><b>Freight in Scotland.</b> What can be done to assist the growth of freight at Scottish airports? (JS, DP)</p> <p><b>Re-instatement of the air link to Skye.</b> (RM)</p>	

Date of next meeting: February 2013.

Details will be distributed in due course.