

Minutes of Cross Party Group on Aviation

Date: Tuesday, 17 September 2013

Location: Committee Room 1, Scottish Parliament

MSP Attendees:

Colin Keir (CK) (Convener)
John Scott (JS) (Deputy Convener)
George Adam (GA)
Maureen Watt (MW)

Non-MSP Attendees:

Sarah Campbell (SC)	Aberdeen Airport
Andrew McConnell (AMc)	easyJet
Malcolm Robertson (MR)	Edinburgh Airport/ Adviser to GIP
David Birrell (DB)	Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce
Brian McClean (BMc)	Glasgow Airport
Derick Murray (DM)	Nestrans
Carl Pheasey (CP)	British Airways
Roddie MacPhee (RMac)	Barrhead Travel
Ranald Robertson (RR)	Hitrans
Mark Stuart (MS)	Highlands & Islands Airports Ltd
David T Hodges (DH)	Virgin Atlantic
Janice Hogarth (JH)	Scottish Passenger Agents Association
Niall Duffy (ND)	Flybe
Andrew Baird (AB)	The Big Partnership/Flybe
Roberta Bianchini	Office of Colin Keir MSP
Robert Munn	Office of Colin Keir MSP

Apologies:

William Wilson	Independent
Amanda McMillan	Glasgow Airport
Gordon Dewar	Edinburgh Airport
Gordon Robertson	Edinburgh Airport
Bob Schumacher	UK & Ireland Worldwide Sales
Hugh Aitken	easyJet UK

<i>Description</i>	<i>Action</i>
ITEM 3: Minutes of last meeting (AGM) 14 May 2013	AGREED by Cross Party Group
ITEM 4: Review of South East England Airport Capacity; Hub/Howard Davies Commission Consultation.	Convener to send letter to Howard Davies, Michael Moore (Scotland Secretary), Patrick McLaughlin and copied to Keith Brown calling

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion of submissions from most of the attendees' organisations/companies - General consensus: hub space required, connectivity needs to improve, deliverability and cost need to be considered - Decision needs to be made quickly, prior to 2015. - Maintain service delivery (and quality of service) during transition and to ensure that connectivity to Scotland is protected throughout. - Lack of indecision ultimately affecting UK and Scottish economies. 	<p>for a quicker decision date (prior to election in 2015).</p>
<p>ITEM 5: Presentation by Janice Hogarth of SPAA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General overview of SPAA, ABTA, insurance and ATOL reform, fair tax on flying and checking through of luggage and interlining. - General discussion about tax issues (£1 levy passengers). - RMac entered discussion and raised various points about prevalence of travelling without or inadequate travel insurance. - Future of air transport fund. 	<p>Convenor asked RMac and JH to compile a report to present to the group at the following meeting on insurance issues surrounding the £1 levy on passengers and the pitfalls related to buying insurance on the open market</p>
<p>ITEMS 6: Topics for future discussion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DB suggested air freight - RR suggested internal Scottish flights, maybe to include report on service to Skye (new year) - Helicopters/Oil Industry: MW to present to the group following CPG on Oil and Gas (9th October). - Convenor to ask for representative from US Consulate to attend CPG to discuss US preclearance (carried over from previous minute)

Please see here below for the dates for the CPG on Aviation for the 2013/14 session. **All meetings start at 18.00.**

Wednesday 27th November 2013
Wednesday 26th February 2014
Wednesday 7th May 2014