

PS Minute

ADVICE FOR: DEREK MACKAY

MACCS Case Number:	2016/0041476	Respond by: 09/02	
Correspondent/Organisation:	Mr Mike Robinson, Chief Executive, Royal Scottish Geographical Society		
Date and time of Event:	Date is flexible		
Location of Event:	Not specified – Mr Robinson’s office is based in Perth, but we presume he is content to travel to Edinburgh to meet Mr Mackay. The correspondent has travelled to Edinburgh for previous meetings of the Scottish Government’s Air Departure Tax (ADT) stakeholder forum.		
Overview of invitation and audience profile:	<p>The Cabinet Secretary has been invited to meet with Mr Robinson to discuss what the Scottish Government is going to do to “further the environmental agenda in regards to finance, infrastructure and transport” in relation to the environmental impact that Mr Robinson believes the Scottish Government’s ADT reduction/eventual abolition policies will have.</p> <p>Mr Robinson represents the two environmental organisations who are members of the Scottish Government’s ADT stakeholder forum, Scottish Environment: LINK and Stop Climate Chaos Scotland. He supports the retention under ADT of current UK APD tax rate amounts on all flights and believes that the tax reduction / eventual abolition policies are environmentally counter-productive.</p> <p>At the most recent stakeholder forum meeting in January, Mr Robinson also expressed his concern (repeated in his letter to the Cabinet Secretary) regarding the economic case presented by the aviation and business sector in support of the 50% tax reduction policy.</p> <p>In his letter, Mr Robinson has outlined some proposals that, in his view, could help to realise the benefits of a reduction, although (as he acknowledges) his proposals do not address the environmental issues.</p>		
Has the Minister been asked to attend on behalf of FM?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Don’t Know <input type="checkbox"/>
RECOMMENDATION:	Accept		
	<p>Comments: Mr Robinson is a key environmental stakeholder that has contributed to the development of the Scottish Government’s ADT proposals - he responded to the Scottish Government’s ADT</p>		

PS Minute

	<p>consultation in 2016 and has attended and participated in every meeting held thus far of the Scottish Government's ADT stakeholder forum.</p> <p>[redacted]</p> <p>If recommendation is to accept, has this advice been agreed with your Head of Division? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Has another Minister been asked to attend:</p>	<p>If so, who and have they accepted?</p> <p>No, although it may be desirable to also see if the Minister for Transport and Islands would also like to attend this meeting as well (officials have not approached his Private Office).</p>
<p>Main theme that the event supports:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scottish Government will use the Scottish Parliament's new powers over APD in Scotland to put in place new arrangements which better supports the Government's strategic objective (set out in Scotland's Economic Strategy) of boosting Scotland's international connectivity and delivering sustainable growth – priorities that are even more pressing as a result of the EU referendum.
<p>Main purpose of attending: <i>(Tick as many as apply)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain new policy or a major policy shift <input type="checkbox"/> • Reinforce or illustrate existing policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Improve relations with stakeholders <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Encourage participation in consultation <input type="checkbox"/> • Recognise contribution to policy implementation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Announce funding <input type="checkbox"/> • Other (please specify): <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Main message to communicate:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have made clear that we have an ambition to deliver an overall 50% reduction in ADT by the end of this Parliament, and we will work across the Parliament to do so. • We will also abolish ADT in Scotland when resources allow. • The Committee on Climate Change has advised that any increase in emissions from reducing ADT is likely to be "manageable". We are making more effort across other sectors and will meet our targets. • The environmental impacts of reducing ADT are being carefully considered through a Strategic Environmental Assessment. • We note that the Committee on Climate Change has said that due to the international nature of the industry, future policy approaches to aviation emissions should be at the global or EU level.
<p>Most appropriate type of Ministerial input:</p>	<p>Face to face meeting</p>
<p>Private Office view:</p>	<p>Diary should be checked as that may influence whether another Minister should be asked to take</p>

PS Minute

	Private Office contact:	
Communications Office view:	Comments:	
	Communications Office contact:	[redacted]
Action Officer:	[redacted]	