

JUSTICE
7 MAR 2018
PRIVATE OFFICE



Michael Matheson MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Justice
The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Monday 5 March 2018

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

I am writing in my capacity as the Commercial Director of AGS Airports, which owns Aberdeen, Glasgow and Southampton airports, and as the Vice-Chair of the UK Travel Retail Forum (UKTRF) which represents over 40 businesses from the travel retail sector.

Last year you kindly helped relaunch Glasgow's successful Campus Watch initiative which we first introduced in 2013 in partnership with Police Scotland to tackle disruptive behaviour. I am pleased to say Campus Watch is continuing to yield hugely positive results, so much so that we have hosted visits from other airports throughout the UK wishing to learn more, namely Stansted, Luton, Birmingham, and Bristol.

Whilst it remains the case instances of disruptive behaviour are extremely rare, we do recognise it can often disproportionately affect a large number of passengers. We firmly believe that by warning passengers about excessive drinking and consistently banning disruptive passengers from flying, we can send a clear message that such behaviour will not be tolerated.

As I am sure you are aware, the issue of licensing of alcohol sales airside and on aircraft has become more prominent following the House of Lords' report on the Licensing Act 2003, which applies to England and Wales only.

The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 sets out a number of offences, such as selling alcohol to people already under the influence, that are offences regardless of whether a venue is licensed or not. This provides our colleagues at Police Scotland with a framework to police the airport more effectively than their counterparts in England and Wales. It is also important to note that a key part of Campus Watch involves working very closely with Police Scotland and our bars and restaurants to ensure staff are aware of their responsibilities under the law.

More.../

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In light of the House of Lords' report, I was keen to restate our commitment to our industry-leading approach to tackling disruptive behaviour. Work is already underway to once again roll Campus Watch out across the airport ahead of the busy summer season.

I would of course be more than happy to meet with you to provide a further update on the work of Glasgow Airport, as well as that of the wider industry which is continuing to develop the UK Aviation Code of Practice on Disruptive Passengers.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Commercial Director
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