

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 05 January 2018 17:54  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Justice; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] News Desk; Communications Justice; [REDACTED] Communications Healthier; [REDACTED] Communications Duty Box  
**Subject:** RE: Lines for clearance - alcohol licensing in airports - Times - for today

Thanks [REDACTED]. Will issue the following.

### **A Scottish Government spokesperson said:**

“Airline data shows that the illicit consumption of alcohol on board an aircraft is one of the biggest causal factors in disruptive passenger incidents. That’s why the Justice Secretary, Michael Matheson recently wrote to the UK Transport Secretary to ask that he consider an amendment to the Air Navigation Order, to educate the public that it is an offence to illicitly consume alcohol on an aircraft, which will help to tackle the problem.

“There are already a range of measures in place to limit drunken behaviour in all areas of airports – such as it being an offence to serve someone alcohol when they are drunk – and it is for Police Scotland and local authorities to ensure they are enforced.

[REDACTED] We will continue to monitor closely the overall effectiveness of existing legislation.”

**From:** Cabinet Secretary for Justice  
**Sent:** 05 January 2018 17:52  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] News Desk; Communications Justice; [REDACTED] Communications Healthier; [REDACTED] Communications Duty Box  
**Subject:** Re: Lines for clearance - alcohol licensing in airports - Times - for today

[REDACTED]

Mr Matheson is content with these updated lines but has amended the last paragraph to:

“We will continue to monitor closely the overall effectiveness of existing legislation

[REDACTED]

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 January 2018 17:41  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Justice; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] News Desk; Communications Justice [REDACTED] Communications Healthier; [REDACTED] Communications Duty Box  
**Subject:** RE: Lines for clearance - alcohol licensing in airports - Times - for today

Hi [REDACTED]

Copying in [REDACTED], who is duty comms.

Propose the amended lines below, which SpAds and officials have cleared. Grateful for Mr Matheson's feedback pls. Looking for a response this evening if possible.

**A Scottish Government spokesperson said:**

“Airline data shows that the illicit consumption of alcohol on board an aircraft is one of the biggest causal factors in disruptive passenger incidents. That’s why the Justice Secretary, Michael Matheson recently wrote to the UK Transport Secretary to ask that he consider an amendment to the Air Navigation Order, to educate the public that it is an offence to illicitly consume alcohol on an aircraft, which will help to tackle the problem.

“There are already a range of measures in place to limit drunken behaviour in all areas of airports – such as it being an offence to serve someone alcohol when they are drunk – and it is for Police Scotland and local authorities to ensure they are enforced.

“While we have no plans to amend licensing hours for alcohol sales at airports, we will continue to monitor closely the overall effectiveness of existing legislation.”

[REDACTED]

**From:** Cabinet Secretary for Justice

**Sent:** 05 January 2018 17:02

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED] News Desk; Communications Justice; [REDACTED] Communications Healthier

**Subject:** Re: Lines for clearance - alcohol licensing in airports - Times - for today

I do not sorry.

PO are still on leave just now so i'm unable to access the system to look for it.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, 5 January 2018 16:59

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Justice; [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED] News Desk; Communications Justice; [REDACTED] Communications Healthier

**Subject:** RE: Lines for clearance - alcohol licensing in airports - Times - for today

PO, have you got the letter at all?

[REDACTED]

Special Advisor to the First Minister

Rural Economy and Connectivity

Early Years, Further and Higher Education

Support to the Head of Policy

Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Cabinet Secretary for Justice  
**Sent:** 05 January 2018 16:55  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] News Desk; Communications Justice; [REDACTED] Communications Healthier  
**Subject:** Re: Lines for clearance - alcohol licensing in airports - Times - for today

[REDACTED]

Mr Matheson has asked for these lines to be changed as he wrote to UKG on this issue so officials should update the lines based on the contents of the letter.

It may be the case this won't be done tonight, grateful if you can keep me updated.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 January 2018 16:40  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Justice  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; News Desk; Communications Justice; [REDACTED]; Communications Healthier  
**Subject:** Lines for clearance - alcohol licensing in airports - Times - for today

Hi [REDACTED]

Looking for Mr Matheson's feedback on query below pls. Lines have been cleared by SpAds and officials. The Times are looking for a response tonight.

### **A Scottish Government spokesperson said:**

"Tackling alcohol misuse is a key priority for this government, and we have introduced a number of robust measures to promote responsible drinking. The refresh of our alcohol strategy is due to be introduced early this year, and will build on the measures already in place.

"There are already a range of measures in place to limit drunken behaviour in all areas of airports – such as it being an offence to serve someone alcohol when they are drunk – and it is for Police Scotland and local authorities to ensure they are enforced.

While we have no plans to amend licensing hours for alcohol sales at airports, we will continue to monitor closely the overall effectiveness of existing legislation."

[REDACTED]  
Reactive News Hub  
[REDACTED]

**QUERY**

Just hoping to get an update on the latest SG position with regard to alcohol availability and 'air rage' incidents.

Obviously usual licensing restrictions around opening hours, etc, don'tr apply at airports and there has been some concern this is causing increasing problems by encouraging excessive drinking which can lead to anti-social behaviour at airports and on flights. There are quite a few recent examples of some serious incidents on flights leaving Scottish airports.

We understand the UK government is considering a crackdown on this, by extending legislation to cover alcohol being sold to passengers before they board flights.

Is the Scottish government considering taking any action on this issue, and if so, can you provide any details?

Any help appreciated. Apologies for the late shout.

Regards,

Dan.

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**Daniel Sanderson**

**The Times**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]