

Email correspondence dated 23 July 2024

From: Jim Fairlie **REDACTED**
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 6:46 AM
To: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Article to accompany Aviation Statement - July 24th

Content. Can I get a paper copy of the statement please

From: **REDACTED** **Behalf Of** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 4:22 PM
To: Jim Fairlie <**REDACTED**>
Subject: FW: Article to accompany Aviation Statement - July 24th

Content with this article for the aviation statement?

From: **REDACTED**
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 3:55 PM
To: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Cc: Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>
Subject: Article to accompany Aviation Statement - July 24th

Hello **REDACTED**

As per separate emails, here is a draft article to accompany the Aviation Statement next Weds.

Spads have seen and are content, as has our head of aviation team.

We would propose pitching this to **REDACTED**

Grateful for feedback by close of play on Monday, if possible.

Thanks,

REDACTED

By Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity, Jim Fairlie

I was proud to launch a detailed plan to help support Scotland's aviation sector earlier this week (Weds).

The key challenge is balancing sustainable growth, supporting our thriving tourism and business sectors, and meeting our ambitious environment and climate change commitments in the process.

The geographical reality is that Scotland is an island. Brexit has removed freedom of movement and free trade. We are a nation of net exporters of key products and services that are in high demand from EU countries and the rest of the world, which means we need more international connectivity than ever before.

As a largely rural, sparsely populated country, air travel is also a lifeline service in some parts of the country.

The new Aviation Strategy is a statement of intent. It sets out the actions we will take across Government and beyond to grow and enhance Scotland's international connectivity, secure lifeline services in the Highlands and Islands, and play our part in the global endeavour to decarbonise aviation. We will examine how low and zero emission aircraft can improve connectivity for island and rural communities, as well as considering options for increasing the production and use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel in Scotland.

It will also review existing routes that we already support to understand the added value to Scotland's economy and deliver on our ambition for Scotland to be at least as well connected as comparable nations, if not better. Governance arrangements for local authority and HIAL-operated airports will also be looked at in order to make operations more efficient as part of the wider Public Sector Reform agenda.

And with a new, more constructive working relationship with our counterparts in the UK Government and the DfT, Ministers will seek to influence the UK Government so that Scotland can benefit fully from their Jet Zero strategy, including by helping to deliver our target for domestic flights to reach net zero by 2040.

I know that the public are often sceptical about statements of intent. However we are all focused on action, impact and added value. And we need a route map to guide us. We are essentially setting out, for the first time, the strategic importance of aviation to Scotland, and what we are going to do to build on the impressive foundations, while significantly reducing emissions in line with our net zero ambitions.

Of course it is never easy to please everyone all of the time, especially when it comes to balancing the benefits and value of aviation and the current environmental impact. However I believe we can do both. The outcomes will only be achieved if we work effectively with airlines, airports, and other interested groups, and I will ensure we have ongoing engagement with the sector to make our vision a reality.

It's been great to take up post as the Scottish Government's Minister for Connectivity at a time when there are clear signs of optimism for aviation in Scotland, with an ongoing recovery in passenger numbers and in Scotland's route network. I appreciate our relationship with the aviation sector has been very productive for many years, and I am determined to continue that positive engagement.

The sector is in the middle of a very busy summer season with many families flying from Scotland's airports to enjoy a well-deserved break abroad and many people coming to Scotland for holidays, major sporting events or on business.. This confirms what we have all known for a long time: aviation is a crucial enabler for building Scotland's cultural and social links; for driving trade and investment opportunities; and for enabling visitors to experience our world-class tourism offer.

I am delighted to see a growing confidence in the Scottish market – demonstrated by recent route launches with JetBlue along with the return of the Beijing route. Airlines are also showing confidence in Scotland by increasing capacity on important routes like Doha, Dubai and Istanbul and the equally vital USA and Canada routes. Growing connectivity while not returning to previous levels of emissions is, of course, a key ambition. We continue to work across government with airlines to promote Scotland and to grow our international connectivity for business, tourism, exports and the wider economy.

It is exciting to see other countries looking at the Scottish model of collaboration and support as they seek to expand their own international connectivity. I am also pleased to see the efforts airlines and airports are taking to continue decarbonising their operations. We have seen some significant signs of progress, with short haul airlines like Ryanair and easyJet investing in new, lower emission aircraft for their Scottish bases. On long haul routes the latest

fuel efficient aircraft are being used by Qatar, Air Canada, and others, and Emirates will introduce a brand new aircraft on the Edinburgh-Dubai route this year. On the ground, airports too are well advanced with their decarbonisation programmes

All these efforts are very welcome but we cannot talk about decarbonisation without mentioning sustainable aviation fuel. We're working very closely with airports in looking at the potential for SAF to ensure that Scotland plays its part in what will be a global transformation away from JetA1.

As welcome as all of these developments are, I am conscious that aviation remains a matter almost entirely reserved to the UK Government and that we will be heavily reliant on its actions to help deliver the transformational change that we all want – and need – to see. We are going to be working with them to secure the many jobs and economic benefits that SAF can provide.

Achieving our goals must mean being fully joined up with other Scottish Government policies that encourage sustainable economic growth and deliver our commitment to net zero emissions by 2045. In particular, our commitments on aviation must support delivery of relevant actions in the recently published Islands Connectivity Plan and the Scottish Government's International Strategy, The forthcoming Scottish Government Climate Change Plan and Transport Just Transition Plan may also contain further actions to support the ongoing decarbonisation of aviation. We must be flexible enough to respond to developments.

Transport Scotland, VisitScotland and Scottish Development International work as one Government team to help Scotland's airports grow international connectivity.

The Scottish Government role is a supportive one and we have helped to attract numerous new routes in recent years, including to key markets and hubs in North America, the Middle East, China and Europe.

We have firm foundations, now is our time to soar.

Correspondence and Response letter dated 9 August 2024 and 12 August 2024

From: REDACTED
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 1:19 PM
To: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Subject: Aviation statement

I found the document to be a veritable "word salad" -not incorrect but that the composition could be very much improved and actually draw people in to read it ,so this is my re-working of the foreword....

"Ministerial foreword.

Aviation is of strategic importance to Scotland , but this statement is surprisingly the first to lay out the specific actions Scottish Government requires to take so that we can continue to benefit from air travel in all its forms whilst significantly reducing its emissions in accordance with our ambitions toward net zero.

There was an earlier public consultation and this statement has been fully informed by the responses provided , and I am grateful to everyone who took part in the process. Since then there have been many positive developments , and so the report also serves to showcase recent improvements in Scotland's international connectivity , and also current and on-going efforts to decarbonise flying. I expect this statement to promote a more positive and

constructive conversation about aviation , and how best to harness the benefits it provides - not just economic but also social , health and cultural.

Aviation is largely a reserved matter and so there are limitations on Scottish Ministers' powers to support even greater progress. Scotland and the UK are only a small part of the global and highly interconnected aviation network. The UK Government published their "Jet Zero Strategy" for aviation decarbonisation after the Scottish public consultation concluded , and it applies throughout the UK and sets parameters for the policy choices Scottish Government may make.

This context means that our aviation statement focusses on the specific actions we can facilitate to grow Scotland's international connectivity, to secure lifeline services to & from and within the Highlands and Islands , and to contribute to international efforts to decarbonise aviation. Scottish Government will continue to try to influence UK Government aviation policies the Jet Zero Strategy , including delivering our target for domestic flights to reach net zero by 2040.

The outcomes detailed in the Statement will require to be fully connected with other Scottish Government policies which encourage sustainable economic growth and deliver on the commitment to net zero emissions by 2045. The commitments on aviation must support delivery of relevant actions in the Islands connectivity Plan draft Strategic approach and the Scottish Government's international Strategy. There may be further actions relating to aviation in the Scottish Government Climate Change Plan and Transport Just Transition Plan , particularly on sustainable aviation fuel. This statement deliberately sets out an approach which is flexible enough to respond to such developments.

The aviation sector is primarily responsible for growing connectivity whilst reducing emissions , but the Scottish Government needs to play a strong supporting role. All of the actions delineated in this Statement will be informed by our new vision for aviation.

"It is important that Scotland is at least as well-connected as the leading equivalent comparable regions and nations whilst reducing the environmental impact of aviation, so that we benefit from the economic and social and health aspects of air travel, and support the effort to our just transition net zero target by 2045."

It will only be possible to achieve the outcomes of this Statement by working effectively with airlines, airports, unions and other interested groups , and I look forward with anticipation to ongoing engagement with the sector to bring our vision to reality."

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I have plowed my way through the full document and there are startlingly omissions of the role of aviation in the oil & gas sector , but also in relation to health care , not just patient travel but for air ambulances and emergencies and with regard to Project Caelus which is particularly focussed on the role of drones. Domestic aviation usually means within the same country but there is large discrepancy between flights within rUK and internal flights within Scotland

It is evident from the style of the full document that there was a single author who lives in the central belt and the prose could be much improved

**REDACTED**



**REDACTED**

Our Reference: 202400426003

12 August 2024

Dear **REDACTED**,

Thank you for your comments on the Scottish Government's new Aviation Statement. The Scottish Government is now implementing the actions in the Statement and I am happy to keep you informed about progress if you wish.

Yours sincerely,

**REDACTED**

TS : Aviation, Maritime, Freight and Canals



## Correspondence dated 24 July 2024 and several responses on statements

From: REDACTED  
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 10:05 AM  
Cc: REDACTED  
Subject: Aviation Statement

Please find attached a link to the Scottish Government's new Aviation Statement, which was published this morning: [Aviation Statement and Key Priorities \(transport.gov.scot\)](#)

The Statement sets out, for the first time, the strategic importance of aviation to Scotland and the specific actions the Scottish Government will take on national and international connectivity, and on reducing aviation emissions. We will now begin to implement these action points and I will be in touch with some of you at a later date to seek your involvement in this work.

Ministers would like to thank everyone who took part in the consultation process that led to this report. Please feel free to cascade this email to others who may be interested.

Ministers are not seeking direct feedback at this stage, however, please let me know if you have any comments on the Statement or would like any further information.  
Regards,

REDACTED

From: REDACTED  
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 1:07 PM  
To: REDACTED  
Cc: Gary Cox REDACTED  
Subject: Re: Aviation Statement

REDACTED

Thank you for sending me the e-mail below with its link to the Scottish Government Aviation Statement.  
I welcome the importance given to the role of air transport and the need to address the growing impact of the aviation share of global carbon emissions. At the same time I note that it does not touch on the contribution of contrails to global warming and the work being done on the potential to mitigate this.

I also note the omission of any reference to noise emissions (particularly under the flight paths around airports) and would welcome any comments you may have on the role of the Scottish Government in improving the situation under the Balanced Approach.  
Best wishes,

REDACTED

From: REDACTED  
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 9:01 PM  
To: REDACTED  
Cc: Gary Cox REDACTED

**REDACTED**

**Subject:** Re: Aviation Statement

- Hullo  
Many thanks for sending this information. Is it within your department's remit to consider opening up new land and sea routes to the continent? Reason I ask is that we have to travel to English ports in order to avoid short-haul flights to the continent. This could be a far more environmentally friendly way of travelling compared to aviation.

Kind regards

**REDACTED**

## **PQ Correspondence and response 23 July 2024**

To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on when it will publish its aviation statement.

Bob Doris

Response

The Scottish Government's Aviation Statement will be published on 24 July (<https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/aviation-statement>) and will set out the actions we will take on national and international connectivity, and on decarbonisation.

The actions and outcomes described in the Aviation Statement have been shaped by our commitments and existing policies on aviation, and the feedback received in our public consultation. The Statement contains a mixture of short, medium and longer term commitments. It covers the period to 2045, in line with our commitment to attaining overall net zero emissions.

**Scottish Government**



## Correspondence dated 1-23 July 2024

**From:** ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 23, 2024 2:51 PM  
**To:** REDACTED  
**Cc:** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Aviation Statement publication

That's it for you REDACTED lol just need Mr Fairlie's office to clear it off by close of play tonight for issue at 9.30am tomorrow.

Thanks

REDACTED

**From:** REDACTED  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 23, 2024 2:22 PM  
**To:** ParlyClerk Scotland REDACTED  
**Cc:** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Aviation Statement publication

Hi

I've now answered the PQ and sent it to PO so I'm presuming there's nothing more needed from me but let me know otherwise please.

Regards, REDACTED

**From:** REDACTED >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 23, 2024 11:46 AM  
**To:** ParlyClerk Scotland <REDACTED>  
**Cc:** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Aviation Statement publication

Hi REDACTED

REDACTED from the Minister's PO (cc'd) is wondering when she should expect the GIQ, as Mr Fairlie has a visit this afternoon and they're trying to manage his time.

Regards, REDACTED

**From:** ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 22, 2024 11:34 AM  
**To:** REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Aviation Statement publication

; Gary Cox REDACTED

I will send you the template on the PQ tracker tomorrow once I have the MSP lodge it all you need to do is put the answer on and send to Private Office ill do the rest.  
Thanks

REDACTED

From: REDACTED  
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 11:32 AM  
To: ParlyClerk Scotland REDACTED  
Gary Cox REDACTED >  
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement publication

Hi REDACTED

9.30 is great, thanks. I'll tell our comms that our news release on the Aviation Statement can issue from 10.00.

I've not done a GIQ before so let me know whether there's anything else I should do please.

Regards, REDACTED

From: ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>  
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 10:32 AM  
To: REDACTED ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>  
REDACTED Gary Cox REDACTED  
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement publication

All good REDACTED, I will lodge tomorrow. Would you like it to issue at 9.30am on Wed.

REDACTED

From: REDACTED  
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 10:27 AM  
To: ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>  
Cc: REDACTED >; Gary Cox  
REDACTED  
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement publication  
Importance: High

Hi REDACTED

I'm just back from leave and double checking that everything is on track for Wednesday. Kate Higgins has identified an MSP to ask the question but let me know what else you need from me please.

I'd also welcome confirmation that the PQ can be answered before 10.00 on Wednesday. As noted, the Minister has a meeting with Airlines UK at 1030 on the same date where he'll be discussing the Aviation Statement. I wouldn't want him to be accused of being disrespectful to the Parliament.

Regards, REDACTED

From: REDACTED On Behalf Of ParlyClerk Scotland  
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2024 1:23 PM  
To: REDACTED ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>  
REDACTED

**REDACTED**

**Subject:** RE: Aviation Statement publication

If its to go before 10:00 I will clear that with Chamber Desk – plenty time to do that though

Cheers

**REDACTED**

**From:** **REDACTED**

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 3, 2024 1:09 PM

**To:** ParlyClerk Scotland <[ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot](mailto:ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot)>

**REDACTED**

**Subject:** RE: Aviation Statement publication

Thanks **REDACTED**

I asked because the guidance says that GIQs are normally answered between 10.00 am and 3.30 pm during recess. It's also suggested that news release go out 30 mins after a GIQ is answered, and I didn't know whether that applied more widely.

Anyway, if the PQ can be answered earlier than 10, then that's fine by me. I've been speaking to your colleague about the GIQ and will be in touch on the 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Regards, **REDACTED**

**From:** **REDACTED** **On Behalf Of** ParlyClerk Scotland

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 3, 2024 12:06 PM

**To:** **REDACTED** ParlyClerk Scotland <[ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot](mailto:ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot)>

**REDACTED**

**Subject:** RE: Aviation Statement publication

H **REDACTED**

We can answer the GIQ whenever suits you – but it must be lodged the day before you are due to answer so we can get the template to you via the PQ Tracker. You then complete that and return to Private Office and we answer at you selected time.

Regards

**REDACTED**

**From:** **REDACTED**

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 3, 2024 11:12 AM

**To:** ParlyClerk Scotland <[ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot](mailto:ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot)>

**REDACTED**

**Subject:** RE: Aviation Statement publication

Morning

Grateful for your advice on the below please. Due to leave, we're having to prepare briefing for the Airlines UK meeting this week. If the Minister can discuss the Aviation Statement with them, that briefing will change significantly.

Regards, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2024 11:35 AM  
To: Kate Higgins <[REDACTED]> ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>  
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <MinisterPB@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement publication

Thanks Kate

For info, Mr Fairlie is now meeting Airlines UK on the same day, 24th July, from 10 to 1030. This is coincidental, however, it would be good if the PQ could be answered before then, as it will be of direct interest to AUK and Mr Fairlie will not want to discuss it with them before the Parliament is informed.

I'd be grateful if parly clerk colleagues could confirm whether this would be feasible.

Regards, [REDACTED]

From: Kate Higgins <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2024 11:13 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <MinisterPB@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement publication

That's fine I have asked someone

Kate Higgins  
Special Advisor to the First Minister  
[REDACTED]

Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG  
Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot).

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2024 11:01 AM  
To: Kate Higgins <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <MinisterPB@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]  
Subject: Aviation Statement publication

Hi Kate,

It now looks like the Aviation Statement will be published on Wednesday the 24th of July. The GIQ has been agreed and you're going to identify an MSP to ask the question.

I appreciate that the 24<sup>th</sup> is still some time off, and that the FM has asked questions about the Statement, but it'd be helpful if you could identify someone now please given summer leave and election disruption. Parly clerks (cc'd) will then arrange the lodging and answering of the PQ. I've attached a copy below\*.

I'm on leave from this Friday until Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, so please cc **REDACTED** if anything arises.

Regards, **REDACTED**

\*

**To ask the Scottish Government when it will publish its Aviation Statement.**

The Scottish Government's Aviation Statement will be published on 24 July (<https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/aviation-statement>) and will set out the actions we will take on national and international connectivity, and on decarbonisation.

The actions and outcomes described in the Aviation Statement have been shaped by our commitments and existing policies on aviation, and the feedback received in our public consultation. The Statement contains a mixture of short, medium and longer term commitments. It covers the period to 2045, in line with our commitment to attaining overall net zero emissions.

**REDACTED**



**Correspondence dated 11-14 June 2024**

From: REDACTED On Behalf Of Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity  
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 9:25 AM  
To: REDACTED Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity  
<MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport <CabSecfortransport@gov.scot>; Minister for  
Parliamentary Business 2024 <MinisterPB@gov.scot>  
Cc: Spads Admin <Spads\_Admin@gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; DG Net  
Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Gary Cox  
REDACTED; Kerry Twyman REDACTED  
Transport Scotland Directors <DLECONPTSD@transport.gov.scot>; REDACTED  
ParlyClerk  
Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; REDACTED Kate Higgins  
REDACTED  
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement publication - routine submission

Hi REDACTED

Thanks for this. Mr Fairlie is content with this approach as well.

Will await the updated submission.

Many thanks

REDACTED

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From: REDACTED On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Transport  
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2024 4:24 PM  
To: REDACTED Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity  
<MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport <CabSecfortransport@gov.scot>; Minister for  
Parliamentary Business 2024 <MinisterPB@gov.scot>  
Cc: Spads Admin <Spads\_Admin@gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; DG Net  
Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Gary Cox  
REDACTED; Kerry Twyman REDACTED  
Transport Scotland Directors <DLECONPTSD@transport.gov.scot>; REDACTED  
ParlyClerk  
Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; REDACTED Kate Higgins  
REDACTED  
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement publication - routine submission

Hi REDACTED

The Cabinet Secretary is content with the recommendation.

Thanks,

REDACTED



**REDACTED** Deputy Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport  
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG  
**REDACTED**

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From: **REDACTED** **ACTED**  
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 4:10 PM  
To: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <[MinisterforAC@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforAC@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport <[CabSecfortransport@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecfortransport@gov.scot)>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <[MinisterPB@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterPB@gov.scot)>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <[MinisterPB@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterPB@gov.scot)>  
Cc: Spads Admin <[Spads\\_Admin@gov.scot](mailto:Spads_Admin@gov.scot)>; Press Transport Scotland <[media@transport.gov.scot](mailto:media@transport.gov.scot)>; DG Net Zero <[DGNetZero@gov.scot](mailto:DGNetZero@gov.scot)>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <[ceo@transport.gov.scot](mailto:ceo@transport.gov.scot)>; Gary Cox <[GaryCox@gov.scot](mailto:GaryCox@gov.scot)>; Kerry Twyman <[KerryTwyman@gov.scot](mailto:KerryTwyman@gov.scot)>;  
**REDACTED** <[TransportScotlandDirectors@transport.gov.scot](mailto:TransportScotlandDirectors@transport.gov.scot)>; **REDACTED** ParlyClerk  
Scotland <[ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot](mailto:ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot)>; **REDACTED** Kate Higgins  
**REDACTED** >  
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement publication - routine submission

Hi **REDACTED**

Since the exchange below, there has been a separate, broader commission on the impact of the General Election. Ms Hyslop's view is that the Aviation Statement **OUT OF SCOPE** should come after the election but **OUT OF SCOPE** can continue to be progressed in the interim.

**Aviation Statement**

We recommend publishing the Aviation Statement as soon after the election as is practical. I've updated the original submission below and would be grateful for clearance from all Ministers as appropriate:

<< File: REVISED Submission to Ministers - publishing Aviation Statement - June 2024 copy.docx >>

<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A48858441/details>

We met Ms Hyslop this morning. She noted recent discussions about health-related air transport in the Highlands and Islands (Mr Fairlie answered two recent PQs on this topic) and how this was reflected in the Aviation Statement. I can confirm that the Statement contains the following line: "The Scottish Government recognises that, for some island and rural communities, there may need to be better engagement between local authorities and health boards regarding the health-related transportation of patients, staff and medicines. We will continue to monitor whether and how the Scottish Government could support this process."

**OUT OF SCOPE**

**REDACTED**

Regards, **REDACTED**



**Correspondence dated 11-13 June 2024**

From: REDACTED

Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2024 12:03 PM

To: Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <MinisterPB@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport <CabSecfortransport@gov.scot>

Cc: Spads Admin <Spads\_Admin@gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Gary Cox

REDACTED Kerry Twyman REDACTED

Transport Scotland Directors <DLECONPTSD@transport.gov.scot>; REDACTED

ParlyClerk

Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; REDACTED

Kate Higgins

REDACTED

Subject: RE: Aviation Statement publication - routine submission

Hi REDACTED

For the avoidance of doubt, the submission isn't in draft. It contains draft material in three annexes but that material is only draft until it's agreed by Ministers. Mr Fairlie has now done so and I understand REDACTED is seeking Ms Hyslop's clearance.

Your particular interest is the draft GIQ; guidance says MPB has to clear this and I'd therefore welcome comments. All that said, the PQ won't be progressed until after the election; we're simply trying to keep things flowing.

REDACTED Once the sub is agreed by Ms Hyslop, please confirm whether the Minute from Mr Fairlie to the FM/DFM will be issued by PO or by us. If PO, I'll confirm other ministers who should be ccd.

REDACTED Mr Fairlie didn't comment on the sub's ask about any preferred publication date for the Aviation Statement. I noted media advice to wait until at least the Thursday after the election (11th). Ms Hyslop has since mentioned something about ministers' possible leave post-election. There's no formal media launch planned, so we'd just need someone to be able to respond to any media queries on the Statement.

Regards, REDACTED

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From: REDACTED > On Behalf Of Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024

Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 11:46 AM

To: REDACTED Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport <CabSecfortransport@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <MinisterPB@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <MinisterPB@gov.scot>

Cc: Spads Admin <Spads\_Admin@gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Gary Cox

REDACTED Kerry Twyman REDACTED

Transport Scotland Directors <DLECONPTSD@transport.gov.scot>; REDACTED

<REDACTED> ParlyClerk  
Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; REDACTED  
REDACTED Kate Higgins

Subject: RE: Aviation Statement publication - routine submission

Hi REDACTED,

Given this submission is still in draft, I assume that you don't require a response from Mr Hepburn at this stage?

Thanks,  
REDACTED

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

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From: REDACTED  
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 4:10 PM  
To: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport <CabSecfortransport@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <MinisterPB@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <MinisterPB@gov.scot>  
Cc: Spads Admin <Spads\_Admin@gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Gary Cox REDACTED  
REDACTED Kerry Twyman REDACTED  
Transport Scotland Directors <DLECONPTSD@transport.gov.scot>; REDACTED  
; ParlyClerk  
Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; REDACTED  
REDACTED >  
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement publication - routine submission

Hi REDACTED

Since the exchange below, there has been a separate, broader commission on the impact of the General Election. Ms Hyslop's view is that the Aviation Statement **OUT OF SCOPE** should come after the election but both can continue to be progressed in the interim.

**Aviation Statement**

We recommend publishing the Aviation Statement as soon after the election as is practical. I've updated the original submission below and would be grateful for clearance from all Ministers as appropriate:

<< File: REVISED Submission to Ministers - publishing Aviation Statement - June 2024 copy.docx >>

<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A48858441/details>

We met Ms Hyslop this morning. She noted recent discussions about health-related air transport in the Highlands and Islands (Mr Fairlie answered two recent PQs on this topic) and how this was reflected in the Aviation Statement. I can confirm that the Statement contains the following line: “The Scottish Government recognises that, for some island and rural communities, there may need to be better engagement between local authorities and health boards regarding the health-related transportation of patients, staff and medicines. We will continue to monitor whether and how the Scottish Government could support this process.”

OU O SCOPE

[REDACTED]

Regards, [REDACTED]

**Correspondence dated 24-25 June 2024**

**From:** REDACTED  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 8:45 AM  
**To:** REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Aviation Statement

Hi REDACTED

Yes, will be happy to chat about that. I'll call you when it's published.

Regards, REDACTED

**From:** REDACTED  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 8:27 AM  
**To:** REDACTED  
**Subject:** Re: Aviation Statement

OFFICIAL

Hi REDACTED

Thank you for the update.

Yes I can confirm that the statement is correct, although it would be worth having a conversation around the zero emission region to discuss how we progress that. Perhaps we can set up a call following the publication of the Aviation Statement?

Thanks

REDACTED

---

**From:** REDACTED  
**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2024 5:30 PM  
**To:** REDACTED  
**Subject:** Aviation Statement

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi REDACTED

For information, REDACTED will give a brief update on the Aviation Statement at Wednesday's HIAL board meeting. He'll provide general background and note some of the action points that mention HIAL.

The current position – between us – is that we're looking to publish the Statement towards the end of July, following delays caused by the new FM's appointment and the UK general election. Given the delays, can I check that the text you provided earlier remains up to date? It is in a section that briefly showcase some recent progress in international connectivity and then in sustainability:

“• Highlands and Islands Airports Limited (HIAL) is leading on our commitment to make the Highlands and Islands a zero emission aviation region. Following the publication of its Sustainability Strategy and completion of a Net Zero Roadmap and energy audit at Inverness Airport, HIAL continues with its programme of activity to decarbonise airport operations and infrastructure.”

**Correspondence dated 19 August 2024**

The logo for Cranfield Aerospace Solutions, featuring the company name in white text on a dark blue background that is shaped like a trapezoid.

Jim Fairlie MSP  
Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity

Fiona Hyslop MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for  
Transport

19<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Scottish Government St  
Andrew's House Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**RE: Support for Transport Scotland's Aviation Statement - Response from Cranfield Aerospace Solutions**

Dear Minister Fairlie and Cabinet Secretary Hyslop,

I write to express our support for your recently issued Aviation Statement and to convey our willingness to collaborate with the Scottish Government to implement the Statement's associated actions.

As you and your officials will know, Cranfield Aerospace Solutions is developing hydrogen-electric propulsion systems, that will enable zero emissions flight this decade. The systems are designed to be scalable and adaptable to multiple aircraft applications

In the current phase of the project, a Britten Norman Islander 9-seat aircraft is being transformed into a zero emissions aircraft by replacing its propulsion system from conventional fossil fuel to that of gaseous hydrogen via a fuel cell and electric motor. In recent months we have achieved notable successes, including finalising the design of our system so that it fits within the existing nacelle of the aircraft. We believe that no other company has managed to package this innovative technology in such a confined space.

It is an exciting time for us, and we are keen to brief you on our progress and future plans. Importantly, we are keen to discuss how they align with the Scottish Government's plans for sustainable aviation and regional connectivity as outlined in the Aviation Statement, especially with respect to the Highlands & Islands.

I am particularly keen to discuss some key outcome areas that you identified in your Statement and to provide you with further information on how these outcomes can be achieved utilising our technology.



As you may know, we have strong partnerships with Scotland, including with Loganair, HITRANS and others but we have to date not met with the Scottish Government.

I would like to propose a visit of members of my senior team to meet with you in Scotland. Please let me know when might be convenient for you.

Kind regards,

**REDACTED**

**REDACTED**

Cranfield Aerospace Solutions **REDACTED**

From: **REDACTED** On Behalf Of Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity

Sent: Friday, August 30, 2024 11:53 AM

To: Jim Fairlie **REDACTED**

Subject: Due 16/9 - 202400427346 - **REDACTED** - Support for Scottish Government Aviation Statement

Please see attached diary case, PS Minute, and response below. Content to decline as per recommendation?

#### **Decline:**

Thank you for expressing Cranfield Aerospace Solutions' support for the Scottish Government's new Aviation Statement and your willingness to collaborate on implementing its actions.

We remain committed to achieving a just transition for aviation that helps meet our wider legal commitment to achieving net zero emissions by 2045, and our ambition for domestic flights to reach net zero by 2040. To do so, we will be reliant on everyone involved in the aviation sector playing their part in significantly reducing emissions. Therefore, it is particularly encouraging to note your work to develop hydrogen-electric propulsion systems that will help to enable zero emissions flight this decade. This type of progress is exactly what is required to ensure that our shared vision of zero emitting flights within Scotland becomes a reality.

Unfortunately, due to the new parliamentary session commencing, I am unable to meet at the current time. However, I have asked **REDACTED**, in the Transport Scotland aviation team, to arrange a meeting with you in order to explore your offer in more detail and to then provide me with an update. I also expect that Cranfield Aerospace Solutions will become involved as we begin the detailed implementation of particular actions within the Statement.

Thank you once again for your support.

**Accept, should you prefer:**



Thank you for expressing Cranfield Aerospace Solutions' support for the Scottish Government's new Aviation Statement and your willingness to collaborate on implementing its actions.

I would be very interested in hearing more about your work to help enable zero emissions flight this decade, and have asked my officials to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet.

## PS Minute

### Event Details

**Date of Event: Time of Event:**

**MiCase Reference:**

202400427346

**Final Due Date:**

16/09/2024

**Case Owner:**

REDACTED

**Sender:**

REDACTED

**Has the Minister been asked to attend on Behalf of FM?:**

No

**Recommendation:**

Decline

**Recommendation Comments:**

The Aviation Statement has recently been published and the input of stakeholders, including Cranfield Aerospace Solutions, will be vital as the Statement

is implemented. There are particular actions where Cranfield's input may be particularly useful, and it would seem preferable to engage at that point

rather than to have a general update meeting now. Officials would be willing to meet them now instead.

**Has another minister been asked to attend?:**

Yes

**Minister List:**

The letter was jointly address to Fiona Hyslop MSP

**Theme of Event:**

Sustainable aviation/ SG's Aviation Statement

**Purpose of Event:**

=> Explain new policy or a major policy shift.

**Most appropriate type of ministerial input:**

private meeting

**Main message to communicate:**

We are committed to working with Scotland's airports to help grow our international connectivity, while not returning to previous levels of emissions.

**From:** Kate Higgins <REDACTED>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 1, 2024 1:03 PM

**To:** REDACTED >; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity  
<MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport <CabSecfortransport@gov.scot>

**Cc:** REDACTED

REDACTED  
REDACTED  
REDACTED; Transport  
Scotland Ministerial Submissions List <DLEPTSMSL@gov.scot>; Gary Cox REDACTED >

**Subject:** RE: Note from Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity - Aviation Statement - 25 June 2024

REDACTED

I discussed with Minister yesterday. There is a draft response being worked on for him to consider (will come to all of you as well) to go back to FM

Kate Higgins

Special Advisor to the First Minister

REDACTED

Scottish Government

St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

From: Gary Cox <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2024 2:08 PM  
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport <CabSecfortransport@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>  
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy <CabSecNZE@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <MinisterPB@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins [REDACTED]; Colin McAllister [REDACTED]; Emily Mackintosh [REDACTED]; Kerry Twyman [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Spads Admin <Spads\_Admin@gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Transport Scotland Directors <DLECONPTSD@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Note from Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity - Aviation Statement- 25 June 2024

[REDACTED]

This response from the First Minister means that there are no outstanding questions on the aviation policy statement so we will continue with arrangements, GIQ etc to publish that on Wednesday 24 July as planned.

**OUT OF SCOPE**  
[REDACTED]

G

**Gary Cox**  
Director – Aviation, Maritime, Freight and Canals  
[REDACTED]

c  
An agency of abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

From: [REDACTED] > On Behalf Of First Minister  
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2024 11:38 AM  
To: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport <CabSecfortransport@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy <CabSecNZE@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <MinisterPB@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins <REDACTED>; Colin McAllister <REDACTED>; Emily Mackintosh <REDACTED>; Gary Cox <REDACTED>; Kerry Twyman <REDACTED>; Spads Admin <Spads\_Admin@gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; <REDACTED>; Transport Scotland Directors <DLECONPTSD@transport.gov.scot>;

REDACTED

Subject: RE: Note from Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity - Aviation Statement - 25 June 2024

Hi <REDACTED>

Thank you for the additional information. FM accepts the first point on domestic aviation and is happy to leave it there.

OUT OF SCOPE

Many thanks,

<REDACTED>

REDACTED

Office of the First Minister

5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

REDACTED



Office of the First Minister of Scotland

FirstMinister.gov.scot

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From: <REDACTED> > On Behalf Of Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity

**Sent:** Monday, July 1, 2024 10:18 AM

**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport <[CabSecfortransport@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecfortransport@gov.scot)>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <[DFMCSEG@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSEG@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <[MinisterforAC@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforAC@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <[CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy <[CabSecNZE@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecNZE@gov.scot)>; Minister for Parliamentary Business 2024 <[MinisterPB@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterPB@gov.scot)>; Kate Higgins [REDACTED]; Colin McAllister

[REDACTED]; Emily Mackintosh [REDACTED]; Gary Cox [REDACTED]; Kerry Twyman [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Spads Admin <[Spads\\_Admin@gov.scot](mailto:Spads_Admin@gov.scot)>; Press Transport Scotland <[media@transport.gov.scot](mailto:media@transport.gov.scot)>; DG Net Zero <[DGNetZero@gov.scot](mailto:DGNetZero@gov.scot)>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <[ceo@transport.gov](mailto:ceo@transport.gov)> [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Transport Scotland Directors <[DLECONPTSD@transport.gov.scot](mailto:DLECONPTSD@transport.gov.scot)>;

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Note from Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity - Aviation Statement - 25 June 2024

Hi [REDACTED]

Please see further clarification from Mr Fairlie below on the points raised by FM. Please also note the Aviation Statement is not due to be published until Mr Fairlie returns from leave w/c 22 July (likely 24 July)

Thank you for your questions on the note, I have provided responses below:

**Firstly, what emphasis is there on reducing internal UK flights where rail is an alternative – unless decarbonisation of flying produces a better result?**

The Aviation Statement does not consider the potential for moving passengers from plane to train as a means of attempting to further reduce aviation emissions. There are various reasons for this:

While we should not be complacent, emissions from domestic aviation have been on a downward trend since 2017 (even allowing for post-Covid recovery). That is likely to continue with airlines' ongoing transition to new, cleaner aircraft and as the full benefits of airspace modernisation are realised. We will also see a gradual but increasing use of sustainable Aviation Statement Fuel (SAF) as a transition before zero emission aircraft are certified to fly, and Ministers have established an expert working group to consider how SAF production and use in Scotland could be increased. Airlines providing domestic connectivity, including easyJet and Loganair, are currently investing in new technologies and we expect shorter domestic routes to be among the first to become zero emission.

Scottish Ministers do not have any powers to attempt to limit intra-UK flights (or flights in general) Attempting to do so by some other means could also serve to undermine some of the central messages of the Statement, such as our desire to stimulate a more positive and constructive conversation about aviation and its benefits to the Scottish economy. It may also undermine ongoing discussions about how to maximise the benefits of the Dundee-London Heathrow route which we subsidise and which is integral to keeping Dundee Airport open.

I am also mindful that domestic passengers still form a significant part of airports' business. In the case of Glasgow, which is taking longer than others to recover from the impact of Covid, journeys to London represent around 27% of their business.

Crucially, even if it were possible to restrict intra-UK flights, doing so would be unlikely to reduce Scotland's overall aviation emissions. We understand from confidential and informal discussions with airlines serving relevant routes that they would redeploy their aircraft to other domestic or European routes. This means that aircraft would continue to be utilised to the same extent as now, so emissions would remain the same regardless of which routes are flown.

The Aviation Statement does note the UK Government's target, set in its 'Jet Zero' aviation strategy, for UK domestic flights to reach net zero by 2040 and the aspiration for zero emission routes connecting different parts of the UK by 2030. These targets overlap with Scottish Ministers' commitment to help decarbonise scheduled flights within Scotland by 2040 and we will therefore continue to encourage the UK Government to ensure that its Jet Zero aviation strategy benefits Scotland. When the targets are realised, the environmental impact of rail and aviation on these routes may be broadly comparable.

In the interim, there are some signs of post-pandemic change in passenger travel patterns between Scotland and England with, for example, an increase in rail's market share of journeys to London, a crucial route, compared with aviation's. It is too early to be definitive, but this suggests that the market may be driving some change by itself. And it would be preferable if efforts could continue to be made to improve the attractiveness of rail as an option, rather than to somehow try to interfere in a commercial market and restrict the appeal of flying. In this context it is also important to note that rail could not provide a realistic alternative to aviation for many intra-GB routes, given that the travel time would be too long (e.g. Aberdeen/Inverness to London and niche routes like Edinburgh-Southampton) and that some existing aviation routes are not served by rail.

**OUT OF SCOPE**



OUT OF SCOPE

[REDACTED]

OUT OF SCOPE

[REDACTED]

OUT OF SCOPE

JF

Many thanks

REDAC ED

REDACTED

Jim Fairlie MSP | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

REDACTED

E: [MinisterforAC@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforAC@gov.scot)

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From: [REDACTED] > On Behalf Of First Minister  
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2024 10:03 AM  
To: Cabinet Secretary for Transport <[CabSecfortransport@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecfortransport@gov.scot)>; First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <[DFMCSEG@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSEG@gov.scot)>  
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <[MinisterforAC@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforAC@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <[CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy <[CabSecNZE@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecNZE@gov.scot)>; Kate Higgins [REDACTED]; Colin McAllister [REDACTED]; Emily Mackintosh <[EMackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:EMackintosh@gov.scot)>; DG Net Zero <[DGNetZero@gov.scot](mailto:DGNetZero@gov.scot)>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <[ceo@transport.gov.scot](mailto:ceo@transport.gov.scot)>; Gary Cox [REDACTED]; Kerry Twyman <[KTwyman@gov.scot](mailto:KTwyman@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] Press  
Transport Scotland <[media@transport.gov.scot](mailto:media@transport.gov.scot)>  
Subject: RE: Note from Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity - Aviation Statement - 25 June 2024

**This email is for the official record and confirms a Ministerial Decision. This email must be placed in the official record (eRDM) by your team [in line with SG records management policy](#).**

Good morning [REDACTED]

FM is grateful for Mr Fairlie’s note. FM has commented that there are two points that need to be followed up before this statement can be made.

Firstly, what emphasis is there on reducing internal UK flights where rail is an alternative – unless decarbonisation of flying produces a better result?

**OUT OF SCOPE** [REDACTED]

Grateful for clarification on these points.

Many thanks,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Office of the First Minister**  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
M: [REDACTED]

**The First Minister’s box closes at 2pm, Monday to Friday.** Further details, including preferences, can be found [here](#).



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**From:** REDACTED On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Transport

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:47 AM

**To:** First Minister <[FirstMinister@gov.scot](mailto:FirstMinister@gov.scot)>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <[DFMCSEG@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSEG@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <[MinisterforAC@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforAC@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport <[CabSecfortransport@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecfortransport@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <[CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy

<[CabSecNZE@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecNZE@gov.scot)>; Kate Higgins REDACTED Colin McAllister

REDACTED Emily Mackintosh <[EMackintosh@gov.scot](mailto:EMackintosh@gov.scot)>; DG Net Zero

<[DGNetZero@gov.scot](mailto:DGNetZero@gov.scot)>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <[ceo@transport.gov.scot](mailto:ceo@transport.gov.scot)>; Gary Cox

REDACTED

Press

Transport Scotland <[media@transport.gov.scot](mailto:media@transport.gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Note from Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity - Aviation Statement - 25 June 2024

PS / First Minister,  
PS / Deputy First Minister,

cc. Cabinet Secretaries for Transport, RALRI, and NZE,

Please find attached a note from Mr Fairlie on the proposed Aviation Statement.

Thanks,

REDACTED

REDACTED | Deputy Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport  
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[cabsecfortransport@gov.scot](mailto:cabsecfortransport@gov.scot) REDACTED

## Correspondence dated 2 to 24 July 2024

From: REDACTED  
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 9:42 AM  
To: REDACTED  
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement - NR - Weds

Hi REDACTED

The Aviation Strategy is now live: <https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/aviation-statement>

News release and social media content will follow at 10am.

Thanks,  
REDACTED

REDACTED | Transport Scotland  
Call me on Teams

From: REDACTED >  
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 11:10 AM  
To: REDACTED  
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement - NR - Weds

Hi REDACTED

This version looks fine, thanks.

Please email me tomorrow when the link is live.

Regards, REDACTED

From: REDACTED  
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 9:54 AM  
To: REDACTED  
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement - NR - Weds

Hi REDACTED

I created it on 4 July, so hopefully caught your updates if they were made on the 2<sup>nd</sup>?

Thanks,  
REDACTED

REDACTED | Transport Scotland  
Call me on Teams

From: REDACTED  
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 9:47 AM  
To: REDACTED  
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement - NR - Weds

Thanks – can you confirm when you turned it into a PDF? That may be easier than me checking for the edits I made (they were a couple of weeks ago and minor).

However, I can do that if easier for you.

Regards, REDACTED

From: REDACTED  
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 9:46 AM  
To: REDACTED  
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement - NR - Weds

Hi REDACTED

Yes, I'm sure I used the latest version on eRDM. See attached to make sure your edits are captured.

Thanks,  
REDACTED

REDACTED | Transport Scotland  
Call me on Teams

From: REDACTED >  
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 9:12 AM  
To: REDACTED  
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement - NR - Weds

Hi REDACTED

I made some very minor edits to the Aviation Statement before I went on leave recently. I therefore thought I should check which version of the Aviation Statement you used to convert to the final web/ PDF version? The link to the Aviation Statement is in this chain below if you need to redo anything. Apologies if I've caused any inconvenience.

Regards, REDACTED

From: REDACTED >  
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 1:18 PM  
To: REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED >; TS Digital Comms Team

REDACTED >; Gary Cox <REDACTED>

Subject: RE: Aviation Statement - NR - Weds

Hi REDACTED

Yes, I've tweaked the photo so it will display well on the webpage and PDF.

Hi REDACTED let me know what time the news release will issue and I'll coordinate the publication and social (attached) around this.

Thanks,

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED | Transport Scotland

Call me on Teams

From: REDACTED >

Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 1:00 PM

To: REDACTED

REDACTED ; TS Digital Comms Team

REDACTED Gary

Cox REDACTED >

Subject: RE: Aviation Statement - NR - Weds

Hi,

There have been a few different convos so trying to draw everything together here.

The GIQ will be answered at 0930 on Wednesday morning. This means the NR can issue anytime from 10.00 that morning.

REDACTED will email the news release to Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Glasgow airports later today (presume you'll note that link below isn't live yet). I'll share the NR with Airlines UK and Airport Operators Association tomorrow. Out of courtesy I guess I should also send it to the DfT.

We didn't think there was any need to share an embargoed copy of the Aviation Statement itself, although I guess we could do so if asked.

REDACTED will ensure that the Aviation Statement is uploaded to the web in time to meet these deadlines. REDACTED – did you edit the photo of the Minister?

REDACTED are working on related comms material for Minister and Cabinet Secretary.

If there's anything else, just let me know please. Thanks for your support.

Regards, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 3:51 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
> TS Digital Comms Team [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement - NR - Weds

Will do

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 3:51 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
> TS Digital Comms Team [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement - NR - Weds

Hi,

Could someone plz tee this up to issue on Weds for [REDACTED] in Inverness so maybe [REDACTED] (?) ?

Exacting timings TBC but presume late Weds morning (see trail below).

Supportive quotes from Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Glasgow Airport are in hand but will be issued separately.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

**News Release**

**July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Aviation Statement**

## Helping the sector balance growth with net zero

A plan to help Scotland's aviation sector balance growth with the country's net zero commitment has been published.

The Aviation Statement <https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/aviation-statement> sets out actions the Scottish Government will take to help grow Scotland's international connectivity, secure lifeline services in the Highlands and Islands and play its part in international efforts to decarbonise aviation. This includes:

- Examining how low and zero emission aircraft could improve connectivity for island and rural communities.
- Considering options for increasing the production and use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel in Scotland.
- Reviewing existing routes supported by the Scottish Government to understand the value added and to help realise our vision for Scotland to be at least as well connected as comparable nations.
- Reviewing current governance arrangements for local authority and HIAL-operated airports to consider how to make operations more efficient.

Ministers will also continue to influence the UK Government so that Scotland can benefit fully from their Jet Zero strategy, including by helping to delivering our target for domestic flights to reach net zero by 2040.

Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity, Mr Fairlie said:

"This Aviation Statement sets out, for the first time, the strategic importance of aviation to Scotland and the specific actions we will take to help ensure we can continue to enjoy its many benefits, while significantly reducing emissions in line with our net zero ambitions.

"I thank everyone who took part in the consultation process for this report, which also serves to showcase both the recent improvements in Scotland's international connectivity and the sector's ongoing efforts to decarbonise flying. I expect this report to stimulate a more positive and constructive conversation about aviation and how best to harness the significant economic, social and cultural benefits it provides.

"The reserved nature of aviation means that we will continue to influence the UK Government so that Scotland can benefit fully from their Jet Zero strategy which applies across the UK.

"The outcomes in this Statement will only be achieved if we work effectively with airlines, airports, and other interested groups, and I will ensure we have ongoing engagement with the sector to make our vision a reality."

From: **REDACTED** >

Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2024 8:02 AM

To: TS Digital Comms Team <**REDACTED**>



REDACTED

Subject: RE: Aviation Statement

Hi REDACTED

We'll publish the Aviation Statement on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July barring any last minute changes by Ministers. Your content below looks broadly fine, thanks, but please see my comment on the LinkedIn quote.

The Aviation Statement

<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A47762888/details> is ready for publication although the photo of the Minister in the foreword looks a bit big. Please edit if needs be.

### Publication

- REDACTED – you have the agreed news release, see Annex C: <https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk/documents/A48457467/details>. You'll be on leave so I presume your colleagues will progress this.
- REDACTED – the Statement will be announced through a PQ/ GIQ, to be published on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July AM. As noted below, the PQ answer states where the Statement will be published, so I'll leave it you to ensure that the Statement is uploaded to that address please. I attach a copy of the GIQ below\*
- REDACTED Guidance says that the GIQ should issue at least half an hour before any news release issues on the Statement. Again, I'll leave those timings to you.
- I will email the Aviation Statement to relevant stakeholders.

I'm on leave from this Friday until Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, so please cc REDACTED if anything crops up. If there are any problems, we should be able to deal with them on the 22<sup>nd</sup> but, given summer leave, please let me know if there's anything you want to discuss in advance.

Regards, REDACTED

\*

### To ask the Scottish Government when it will publish its Aviation Statement.

The Scottish Government's Aviation Statement will be published on 24 July (<https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/aviation-statement>) and will set out the actions we will take on national and international connectivity, and on decarbonisation.

The actions and outcomes described in the Aviation Statement have been shaped by our commitments and existing policies on aviation, and the feedback received in our public consultation. The Statement contains a mixture of short, medium and longer term commitments. It covers the period to 2045, in line with our commitment to attaining overall net zero emissions.

Correspondence dated 11 June 2024

AMFC, Aviation Team  
11 June 2024

**Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity**  
**Cabinet Secretary for Transport**  
**Minister for Parliamentary Business**

### Priority and Purpose

1. **Routine:** To ask you to agree the attached handling plan for publishing the Aviation Statement and to state a preferred publication date.

### Recommendation

2. That you agree the: attached draft Minute to the FM/DFM and other relevant Ministers (Annex A); draft GIQ, in the template style (Annex B); and, draft news release (Annex C). The Minute and the news release have been drafted in Mr Fairlie's name.

### Context and Issues

3. You have both cleared the Aviation Statement for publication and Ms Hyslop has confirmed her preference for it to be published OUT OF SCOPE

### Options Considered and Advice

4. The Aviation Statement was cleared by Ministers some time ago. As requested by Ms Hyslop, we have informally discussed its content with key aviation stakeholders – who were broadly supportive – while Ministers have confirmed in PQs and in a meeting with the Scottish Parliament's cross-party group on aviation that the Statement would be published "soon". We therefore recommend publishing the Statement as soon after the general election as possible.

5. OUT OF SCOPE

### Assessment of Options

6. As above.

### Contribution to the Government's Three Missions

7. The Minute to the First Minister in Annex A sets out clearly how the Aviation Statement will contribute to the opportunity mission of building a fair, green and growing economy.

## **Delivery**

8. N/A

## **Verity House Agreement Implications**

9. None

## **Financial Considerations**

10. None.

## **Legal Considerations**

11. None.

## **New Deal for Business Implications**

12. N/A

## **Sensitivities**

13. There is an expectation amongst MSPs and stakeholders that the Aviation Statement will be published as soon as possible, which will now be after the General Election.

## **Quality Assurance**

14. This submission has been approved by Gary Cox, Interim Director AMFC, and Alison Irvine, CEO of Transport Scotland.

## **Conclusion and next Steps**

15. **You are asked to:**

- Agree the Minute to the FM/DFM.
- Agree the text of the GIQ, which will also have to be agreed by the Minister for Parliamentary Business. SpADs have committed to identifying an MSP to lodge the PQ.
- Agree the news release.
- State a preferred publication date for the Aviation Statement. Media advice is to wait until at least the Thursday after the election (11<sup>th</sup>).

**REDACTED**



| Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers Copy List | For Action | For Information Portfolio interest | For Information Constituency interest | For Information General awareness |
|---------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                             |            |                                    |                                       |                                   |

| Officials Copy List                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Press Transport Scotland<br>DG Net Zero<br>Chief Executive Transport Scotland<br>Gary Cox, TS<br>Kerry Twyman, TS<br><b>REDACTED</b><br><b>REDACTED</b><br><b>REDACTED</b><br><b>REDACTED</b><br><b>REDACTED</b><br><b>REDACTED</b><br><b>REDACTED</b><br>Transport Scotland Directors<br><b>REDACTED</b><br><b>REDACTED</b> |

**First Minister**

**Deputy First Minister**

## **AVIATION STATEMENT**

I intend to publish the Scottish Government's Aviation Statement as soon after the general election as possible. It sets out the actions we will take to further grow Scotland's international connectivity and help support the ongoing decarbonisation of flying. The publication of the statement is timely given our focus on growing the economy, creating jobs and reducing emissions.

A number of core messages underpin the Statement, for example: the desire to stimulate a more positive and constructive conversation about aviation and its benefits to the Scottish economy; ensuring that Scotland's interests are fully reflected as the UK Government implements its 'Jet Zero strategy' for aviation decarbonisation; a focus on specific actions where we can make a meaningful contribution; and, the need for ongoing engagement with the sector to make our vision for aviation, including swift decarbonisation, a reality. We have also taken the opportunity to showcase recent advances in decarbonisation at a global, national and local level, and new international routes that have been secured by Transport Scotland and partners working closely, flexibly and constructively with Scotland's airports. Our overall ambition is to help make Scotland at least as well connected as peer nations. While significant progress has been made in recent years, there is more to do.

The actions and outcomes described in the Aviation Statement are shaped by our existing commitments and policies on aviation, and by the feedback received in our public consultation. There is a mixture of short, medium and longer term commitments, out to 2045. We acknowledge that the Statement must be a working document given the time period covered and the continual technological breakthroughs that will shape our future actions. To cement the message that aviation decarbonisation is a shared endeavour, the Statement commits to regular ministerial meetings with the sector. This will allow us to determine where progress is being made and where further action and support is required. We will, of course, maintain appropriate lines of accountability and responsibility in doing so.

I expect the aviation sector and the wider business community to recognise the Statement as a pragmatic document and to welcome, in particular, its commitment to ongoing engagement. Some environmental groups will consider that the Government should have gone further on decarbonisation. In anticipation of this, the Statement is open and pragmatic about the extent of our powers, the continued progress being made by the sector and the fact that the UK Government's Jet Zero decarbonisation strategy will include Scotland. Overall, the statement is positive about our ambitions for growth – key to ensuring the long term commercial viability of all Scotland's airports – and how that ambition supports business, tourism, exports and the Scottish economy.

OUT OF SCOPE



JF, XX June 2024



## **Annex B: draft GIQ on Aviation Statement**

### **To ask the Scottish Government when it will publish its Aviation Statement.**

The Scottish Government's Aviation Statement will be published [on x, add link] and will set out the actions we will take on national and international connectivity, and on decarbonisation.

The actions and outcomes described in the Aviation Statement have been shaped by our commitments and existing policies on aviation, and the feedback received in our public consultation. The Statement contains a mixture of short, medium and longer term commitments. It covers the period to 2045, in line with our commitment to attaining overall net zero emissions.

### **Background**

We recommend using a GIQ as a parliamentary statement would not be possible during recess.

We recommend that the GIQ should be answered on X by Mr Fairlie, as early in the day as possible as this will allow us to respond to media queries on the Statement during working hours.

There are currently no existing PQs on the Aviation Statement, although one was recently asked.

## Correspondence dated 23 July – 2 August 2024

**From:** REDACTED  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 24, 2024 8:18 AM  
**To:** REDACTED  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Jim Fairlie MSP, Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity - 23 July 2024

Morning

Apologies for the further email, but while the report will be published around 0930 this morning, our NR won't be issued until 1000 (we're publishing the Aviation Statement through a PQ and need to give time for the Scottish Parliament to process it).

I know it's extremely unlikely that UK Government would publicly comment on the Statement at 930 anyway but, just to be clear, please ensure that any public comment made is after 1000 please.

Regards, REDACTED

**From:** REDACTED  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 23, 2024 5:51 PM  
**To:** REDACTED  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from Jim Fairlie MSP, Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity - 23 July 2024

Hi,

In case of use, here is the correspondence noted in my earlier email. It would be good to discuss this at some point please.

Regards, REDACTED

**From:** REDACTED On Behalf Of Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 23, 2024 4:58 PM  
**To:** REDACTED  
Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <[MinisterforAC@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforAC@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Letter from Jim Fairlie MSP, Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity - 23 July 2024

Good afternoon

Please find attached a letter from Jim Fairlie MSP, Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity to Mark Kane MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Aviation, Maritime and Security Minister)

Also attached is an **embargoed** copy of the Scottish Government's new Aviation Statement, which will be published tomorrow (24 July) at 09.30.

Kind regards

REDACTED

## Jim Fairlie Letter to Mike Kane 23 July 2024

Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity  
Ministear an Aiteachais agus Ceangal  
Jim Fairlie MSP  
Jim Fairlie BPA



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

Mike Kane MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Aviation,  
Maritime and Security Minister)  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

By email: **REDACTED**

23rd July 2024

Dear Mike,

I would like to formally congratulate you on your appointment as Parliamentary-Under Secretary of State (Aviation, Maritime and Security Minister). My colleague Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, has today written to you in similar terms and I reiterate her commitment to developing a positive relationship with you and your ministerial colleagues.

As a first step in building that relationship, I am pleased to attach an **embargoed** copy of the Scottish Government's new Aviation Statement, which will be published tomorrow (24 July) at 09.30. My own portfolio includes aviation and air services, amongst other transport matters, and the Statement is an important step in realising our vision, outcomes and objectives for aviation over the short and medium term. I would be very grateful if you could avoid publicly commenting on the document or sharing it outwith government before it is published.

The Statement sets out, for the first time, the strategic importance of aviation to Scotland and the specific actions the Scottish Government will take to help ensure we can continue to enjoy its many benefits, while significantly reducing emissions in line with our net zero ambitions. We recognise that these outcomes are shared by the UK Government and I look forward to beginning a new dialogue on how they can be achieved in a mutually beneficial manner. In particular, I highlight the Statement's various references to the UK Government's Jet Zero Strategy and the importance of ensuring that it benefits Scotland. For example, Jet Zero contains a target for UK domestic flights to reach net zero by 2040 and contains an aspiration for zero emission routes connecting different parts of the UK by 2030. This overlaps with our

commitment to help decarbonise scheduled flights within Scotland by 2040 and we therefore want to ensure that Scotland's relevant strengths are fully utilised.

**OUT OF SCOPE**

Yours sincerely,

**JIM FAIRLIE MSP**

**Mike Kane letter to Jim Fairlie dated 2 August 2024**



Department  
for Transport

Jim Fairlie MSP  
Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity  
Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

From the Parliamentary  
Under Secretary of State  
**Mike Kane MP**

Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Tel: **REDACTED**

Web site: [www.gov.uk/dft](http://www.gov.uk/dft)

Our Ref: MC/00018298

2 August 2024

Dear Jim,

Thank you for your letter of 23 July, congratulating me on my appointment as the Minister for Aviation, Maritime and Security and enclosing Transport Scotland's 'Aviation Statement and Priorities' document.

I fully recognise the strategic importance of aviation to Scotland and welcome connectivity and sustainability as priorities and key principles of your statement. **OUT OF SCOPE**

**OUT OF SCOPE**

Yours sincerely,

MIKE KANE MP

**MINISTER FOR AVIATION, MARITIME AND  
SECURITY**

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**Correspondence dated 23 July 2024**

From: REDACTED

Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 1:32 PM

Cc: Gary Cox REDACTED

Subject: Aviation Statement - embargoed

Sensitivity: Confidential

Please find attached a **strictly embargoed** copy of the Scottish Government's Aviation Statement, which is scheduled to be published around 09.30 tomorrow morning (24<sup>th</sup> of July).

The Statement must not be shared outwith your organisation or publicly commented on before it is published – I will send a link to the published document tomorrow. Thanks again for your interest in the Statement.

Regards,

REDACTED

## Correspondence dated 24 July 2024

From: REDACTED

Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 10:05 AM

Cc: Gary Cox REDACTED

Subject: Aviation Statement

Please find attached a link to the Scottish Government's new Aviation Statement, which was published this morning: [Aviation Statement and Key Priorities \(transport.gov.scot\)](https://transport.gov.scot)

The Statement sets out, for the first time, the strategic importance of aviation to Scotland and the specific actions the Scottish Government will take on national and international connectivity, and on reducing aviation emissions. We will now begin to implement these action points and I will be in touch with some of you at a later date to seek your involvement in this work.

Ministers would like to thank everyone who took part in the consultation process that led to this report. Please feel free to cascade this email to others who may be interested.

Ministers are not seeking direct feedback at this stage, however, please let me know if you have any comments on the Statement or would like any further information.

Regards, REDACTED