

Correspondence dated 18-24 July 2024

From: REDACTED
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 9:28 AM
To: REDACTED
Gary Cox REDACTED
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement

HIAL's lines.

"HIAL welcomes Transport Scotland's aviation statement.

"The statement recognises HIAL's airports as an essential element of Scotland's transport network supporting air connectivity for some of the most remote areas of the country.

"It's good to see that HIAL's contribution in supporting the Scottish Government's commitment to make the Highlands and Islands a zero emission aviation region has been recognised whilst underscoring there is still more to do. We will continue our programme to decarbonise our airport operations and infrastructure and look forward to working with Transport Scotland to deliver on that and other of their key aviation priorities."

From: REDACTED
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 9:21 AM
To: REDACTED
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement

Thanks. Still to be approved but likely our line will be the below and we'll issue reactively:

"We welcome the fact that the Scottish Government realises the importance of aviation for both the country's connectivity to the world and our islands, and for Scotland's economy, and we share the government's vision to work towards the decarbonisation of our industry.

"To meet this goal requires a clear strategy with a detailed policy framework to allow the industry to continue its positive path towards a net zero future. That is currently lacking so the opportunity to engage and collaborate with government and sector partners to help shape how this will look is crucial, and we look forward to speaking with the government to find out its next steps."

Might be one for further discussion as we do think it is lacking in any real commitment or detail, so hopefully the plan is to work with industry to flesh that out.

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:46 PM
To: REDACTED
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement

Hi,

Link not live yet (will go live at 0930 on Weds), but apparently our aviation team have briefed you guys on the contents.....

We'll issue voice notes to REDACTED on Weds and we also have a 1st person piece for REDACTED for Thurs/weekend. Will share once cleared.

OUT OF SCOPE

Cheers,

REDACTED

News Release – embargoed til 24/7/24 - 1000hrs

DRAFT VERSION

July 24th, 2024 – 1000hrs

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: Monday, July 22, 2024 10:59 AM
To: REDACTED
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement

Hey

Not bad thanks, you? Planned to reply Friday but an IT issue sort of hit us...

Thanks for the heads up. It’s been a long time coming so hopefully some positives in it.

Will share our lines when we know what’s coming.

From: REDACTED
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 3:00 PM

To: REDACTED
Subject: Aviation Statement

In REDACTED absence, we are looking to launch the new aviation statement next week, maybe Weds.

There really isn't much in it from a news perspective and am not expecting much interest, but will fire over the NR next week.

Cheers,

REDACTED

Correspondence dated 22-24 July 2024

From: REDACTED >
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 9:58 AM
To: REDACTED
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement

Thanks REDACTED. Appreciate you pointing that bit out but we just need to make sure we get a plan and actions rather than just a discussion forum.

Our [Greater Good sustainability strategy](#) is a good example of words with actions.

REDACTED – sure we'll have a chat on this soon to find out what the Minister has in mind, so can speak then.

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 9:51 AM
To: REDACTED
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement

Thanks – hopefully this covers it for today! Will defer to REDACTED Gary though, as I'm just comms.....

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"To meet this goal requires a clear strategy with a detailed policy framework to allow the industry to continue its positive path towards a net zero future. That is currently lacking so the opportunity to engage and collaborate with government and sector

partners to help shape how this will look is crucial, and we look forward to speaking with the government to find out its next steps."

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Correspondence dated 24 July 2024

From: REDACTED
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 11:32 AM
To: REDACTED
Cc: Gary Cox REDACTED
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement

Hi REDACTED

Just out of meetings and have also replied to REDACTED separate email on the Aviation Statement. I understand REDACTED will comment on the Statement at next week's engagement with the Cabinet Secretary.

I'd just very briefly reiterate now the point in the Statement that the 'Jet Zero strategy' for aviation decarbonisation applies throughout the UK. We therefore need to make sure that JZ delivers for Scotland. Our additional actions are noted and we're also very clearly wanting to work with the sector to determine - with its various plans, actions and strategies – the progress being made and whether further action is required.

Regards, REDACTED

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Correspondence dated 30-31 July

From: REDACTED

Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 8:14 AM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Transport <CabSecfortransport@gov.scot>; REDACTED
REDACTED; Chief Executive Transport Scotland
<ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Gary Cox REDACTED

Kate Higgins REDACTED

Subject: RE: URGENT - Briefing for Cabinet Secretary Visit to Edinburgh Airport. 31 July. 10:00-12:00

Hi REDACTED

Briefing as follows:

“Response to the Aviation Statement has been relatively limited. Initial comments from Edinburgh and Glasgow are reflected in the briefing. There was a positive welcome from HIAL, ZeroAvia and CBI Scotland, who welcomed the Statement’s framing of aviation in the wider economic context. There were few media articles, with some coverage of plans to review the Air Discount Scheme and environmental groups’ negative reaction to the statement. Mr Fairlie’s article on the Aviation Statement was published in the Scotland on Sunday

As the Statement was being launched, Mr Fairlie hosted a meeting with Airlines UK. Officials presented on the Statement and the reaction was generally muted but reasonably positive. We have received other miscellaneous comments from stakeholders. To date, we have not had a response from UKG at ministerial or official level – an embargoed copy was provided.

We have received 13 PQs about the Statement from Willie Rennie MSP, many of which refer to Climate Change Committee recommendations, Air Departure Tax and/or SG support for a third runway at Heathrow Airport.”

Regards, REDACTED

From: REDACTED

On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Transport

Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 5:27 PM

To: REDACTED Cabinet Secretary for Transport <CabSecfortransport@gov.scot>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Gary Co REDACTED

REDACTED

Kate Higgins REDACTED

Subject: URGENT - Briefing for Cabinet Secretary Visit to Edinburgh Airport. 31
July. 10:00-12:00

Importance: High

REDACTED

Sorry for getting in touch late in the day but the Cab Sec has asked for briefing on the response to the Aviation Statement.

Please could this be provided by 0900 tomorrow.

Thanks,

REDACTED

Correspondence dated 27-30 August 2024

From: REDACTED
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2024 3:10 PM
To: REDACTED

Subject: RE: Aviation Statement

Dear REDACTED

Thank you for your email and apologies for the delayed response but I had time off this week.

Thank you for the detailed reflections on the Aviation Statement. I think it's relevant to highlight the Statement's confirmation that Ministers will continue to engage with UK Ministers on Jet Zero. I'm not sure whether the new UK Government will wish to make any changes to that strategy, which is scheduled to be reviewed regularly and which applies in Scotland. JZ ruled out demand management for aviation (although the Aviation Statement does note, for example, non-technological actions through the ETS to try to limit emissions).

The second main point to highlight from the Aviation Statement is the Minister's intention to meet regularly with the sector to understand how the various decarbonisation strategies are progressing and whether any further actions are required. We are happy to keep you informed about that work if that would be useful.

Regards, REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 11:07 AM
To: REDACTED
Cc: Gary Cox REDACTED

Subject: Re: Aviation Statement

Dear REDACTED

Many thanks for sharing the Scottish Government's new Aviation Statement. Following our participation in consultations related to this, and the significant climate impacts of aviation, we were keen to respond with our review of the statement and priorities of the coalition, and [this has now been published here](#).

We would welcome any immediate comments, and would also be very pleased to meet to discuss this further, and hear about any next steps you have planned. Please do let me know if you'd like to set something up and we can arrange for relevant members to attend.

Best wishes

REDACTED

REDACTED

Correspondence dated 14-17 June 2024

From: REDACTED
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2024 5:02 PM
To: Cabinet Secretary for Transport <CabSecfortransport@gov.scot>; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@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> REDACTED
ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins REDACTED
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement publication - routine submission

Hi REDACTED

Thanks for confirming.

RE As noted in a separate chain, please now issue the Minute from Mr Fairlie that's in Annex A of the below submission. It should be sent to the FM/DFM for information, and ccd to Cabinet Secretaries for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands and for Net Zero and Energy please. Let me know if you need me to clarify anything.

The separate chain also confirmed the Cabinet Secretary's view that the Aviation Statement should be published sometime around Tuesday 23 July, when the Minister returns from leave. I'll be in touch nearer that time to confirm the exact publication date and the final arrangements for the GIQ.

Regards, REDACTED

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

REDACTED

ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>

Kate Higgins REDACTED >

Subject: RE: Aviation Statement publication - routine submission

Hi REDACTED

The Cabinet Secretary is content with the recommendation.

Thanks,

REDACTED

Correspondence dated 25 June 2024

From: REDACTED On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Transport
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 10:47 AM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport <CabSecfortransport@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy <CabSecNZE@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins REDACTED Colin McAllister REDACTED Emily Mackintosh REDACTED DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Gary Cox REDACTED Kerry Twyman REDACTED Press
Transport Scotland <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,

Text of attachment:

Correspondence dated 9 August 2024

From: REDACTED

Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 1:22 PM

To: Gary Cox REDACTED

[REDACTED]

Subject: GLA visit

Hi,

Today's ministerial visit by Mr Fairlie to Glasgow Airport was fine. A quick walk and drive round the campus.

I spoke to REDACTED before the Minister arrived and he raised the following issues:

- a proposed joint meeting between the sector and Minister on decarbonisation, following on from Aviation Statement (the Statement proposes regular meetings anyway and I shared my initial ideas) REDACTED I'll discuss this with you later, has links with REDACTED recent proposal that I think you're aware of;

- OUT OF SCOPE [REDACTED]

OUT OF SCOPE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Regards, REDACTED

Correspondence 20 August - 3 September 2024

From: REDACTED
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 4:34 PM
To: REDACTED
Subject: RE: Senior Officers Group - Islands Strategic Group/Islands Transport Forum

Hi REDACTED

I've edited the note as suggested.

From: REDACTED
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2024 5:06 PM
To: REDACTED
Subject: RE: Senior Officers Group - Islands Strategic Group/Islands Transport Forum

Hi REDACTED

I attach a very short paper, re request below. Let me know if this is what you had in mind. I can top and tail it, if it's not part of a wider paper.

I'll separately prepare Q&A for Ms Hyslop. It would make sense to do so once we hear any feedback from LA but I'm off from 9th to 16th so that may not be feasible. Any idea of deadlines?

REDACTED – above refers to ICP CAN, just to show we're joined up.

Regards, REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2024 9:36 AM
To: REDACTED
Subject: RE: Senior Officers Group - Islands Strategic Group/Islands Transport Forum

Morning REDACTED

Could we please have the paper by COP on Monday 2 September? We would then look to send onto the local authorities the next for which allows them ~2 weeks for consideration before the meeting on the 18th.

I will send a separate briefing request for general lines from all relevant policy areas in the next week or so.

Thank you,

REDACTED

From: REDACTED

Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2024 9:20 AM

To: REDACTED

Subject: RE: Senior Officers Group - Islands Strategic Group/Islands Transport Forum

I will do, thanks. Please remind me of the deadline.

Regards,

From: REDACTED

Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 4:40 PM

To: REDACTED

Subject: RE: Senior Officers Group - Islands Strategic Group/Islands Transport Forum

Thanks

Yes, we agreed that the agenda item concerning the Aviation Statement will now take the form of a written update and will not be included in the running order for the meeting. Can you however ensure the Cabinet Secretary is briefed and has lines to take if needed. We will not encourage a discussion on the paper but we can't exclude local authorities will want to react to it anyway.

REDACTED

From: REDACTED

Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 5:18 PM

To: REDACTED

Subject: RE: Senior Officers Group - Islands Strategic Group/Islands Transport Forum

Hi

As discussed this morning, we think a written briefing on the Aviation Statement will suffice – there's no need for a discussion on it. This means that the agenda item and paper previously suggested by REDACTED are no longer needed.

Regards,

From: REDACTED

Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 3:52 PM

To: REDACTED

Subject: FW: Senior Officers Group - Islands Strategic Group/Islands Transport Forum

Hi REDACTED

Just an update on this mornings meeting. OUT OF SCOPE

I am hoping to go out to the local authorities in a week or so with a confirmed agenda so I'd be grateful if you could confirm the above agenda items are okay. REDACTED grateful if yourself and REDACTED can advise for Aviation interests.

Currently Ms Hyslop is scheduled to attend for the first 45 minutes. Given there's a few ferry agenda items in addition to aviation, do you feel it is worth approaching PO with a view to extending this time to 1 hour?

Kind regards,

REDACTED

Text from attachment:

REDACTED
Aviation Team,
Transport Scotland
3 September 2024

Aviation Statement

1. The Scottish Government has recently published its [Aviation Statement](#), which sets out specific actions where we can further help to grow Scotland's international connectivity, secure lifeline services in the Highlands and Islands, and decarbonise aviation.
2. The Statement builds on existing SG commitments, for example, to help decarbonise scheduled flights within Scotland by 2040. It also builds on our existing actions to improve social inclusion in the Highlands and Islands, such as the provision of the Air Discount Scheme (ADS), which provides eligible residents with a 50% discount on the core air fare.
3. Some of the new actions in the Statement are particularly relevant to the Highlands and Islands, for example:

- to review the ADS to consider how it could be made fairer and more effective, and to ensure that it is providing value for money;
 - to review current governance arrangements for local authority and HIAL-operated airports, in order to examine whether there is scope to realise economies of scale (N.B. this will not include any discussion on the ownership of non-HIAL airports);
 - to work with stakeholders to consider exactly how the possible new routes and lower costs offered by sustainable aviation could improve passenger and cargo services and our tourism offer. This will include examining how low and zero emission aircraft could improve connectivity for island and rural communities.
4. The Statement notes that we will prioritise the ADS and governance review in the short term. We will consult with stakeholders as appropriate as we continue to implement these and other actions in the Aviation Statement. For example, we expect to contact relevant island authorities shortly in connection with the governance review.
 5. The Aviation Statement also notes that the refreshed needs assessments to be carried out as part of the Islands Connectivity Plan, will cover air services.
-

Correspondence dated 24 July - 1 August 2024

From: REDACTED
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 8:14 AM
To: REDACTED
Subject: FW: Aviation Statement

Hi REDACTED

I attach our updated lines.

Regards, REDACTED

- Our new Aviation Statement describes the specific actions we will take to encourage decarbonisation and route development.
- The Statement reaffirms our commitment to working with airlines and Scotland's airports to help grow our international connectivity, while not returning to previous levels of emissions.
- The Scottish Government wants to achieve 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.
- We are actively considering policy options for increasing the production and use of Sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) in Scotland.
- The UK Government's 'Jet Zero' aviation strategy applies across the UK and contains various measures on decarbonisation that will apply in Scotland. We will continue to encourage the UK Government to ensure that Jet Zero benefits Scotland.

From: REDACTED
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 11:45 AM
To: REDACTED
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement

Hi REDACTED

Many thanks for your email.

Would it be possible to send me some key lines (5-6 bullet points maximum) on sustainable aviation? I'm currently updating our core brief on sustainable tourism.

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 10:05 AM
Cc: Gary Cox REDACTED

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

Correspondence dated 24-25 July 2024

From: REDACTED
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 8:37 AM
To: Gary Cox REDACTED
Subject: RE: Additional item for the agenda with the FM

Hi REDACTED,

We've provided some background and lines to take. I appreciate this may be rather niche for the FM so there's a bit of detail, but let me know if it's too lengthy and I'll edit.

Regards, REDACTED

Governance arrangements for local authority and HIAL operated airports

The Scottish Government's newly published Aviation Statement contains various outcomes and actions. These include the desired outcome of 'More efficient airport operations in the Highlands and Islands' and the corresponding action to deliver this outcome: 'Review current governance arrangements for local authority and Highlands and Islands Airport Limited (HIAL) operated airports to consider how economies of scale can be realised (this will not include any discussion on the ownership of non-HIAL airports). OUT OF SCOPE

Background

This action arose from our public consultation on developing the Aviation Statement, which noted that both HIAL and certain local authorities provide airport services for scheduled passenger air services in the Highlands and Islands. All require subsidy to do so. While HIAL and local authorities have direct control over the facilities they manage, having these different operators makes it more difficult to achieve economies of scale, for example, through bulk buying of equipment. We therefore asked consultees whether these governance arrangements could be improved. Key stakeholders agreed that there was merit in Transport Scotland making initial proposals for how any new model could work.

Following publication of the Aviation Statement, officials will now make a submission to Ministers on the possible scope, remit and timeline of the review. The Statement notes that the review will not include any discussion on the ownership of non-HIAL airports REDACTED

Further, local authorities stressed during consultation that they would be strongly against any change perceived as being about centralisation and would want to ensure that local influence were retained under any new model. REDACTED

HIAL

We understand the importance of aviation to the Highlands and Islands, which is why the Scottish Government provides funding to support the operations of HIAL. In order to ensure that HIAL can continue to operate safe and regulatory compliant airports, supporting connectivity to some of our remotest communities, we've increased the budget available to HIAL from £59.5 million in 2023-24 to £61.7 million in 2024-25.

Lines to take

We are committed to reviewing current governance arrangements for local authority and HIAL-operated airports to consider how economies of scale could be realised. Ministers have yet to determine when and how the review will take place, other than to confirm that it will not include any discussion on the ownership of non-HIAL airports. We will undertake appropriate consultation with stakeholders in conducting the review.

From: Gary Cox <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 4:50 PM
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Additional item for the agenda with the FM

Adding [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who can provide a line. [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 4:27:12 pm
To: Gary Cox <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Additional item for the agenda with the FM

Hi Gary
[REDACTED] are meeting the First Minister on Tuesday next week (they have a long-standing arrangement to meet the FM annually) and are planning to raise an item about HIAL funding. Could you please let me know some lines for FM on the query below from the [REDACTED], so we can add that to the FM's briefing pack? We will need to issue the pack by the end of this week.
Many thanks, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 3:18 PM
To: [REDACTED]

REDACTED

Subject: Additional item for the agenda with the FM

REDACTED

REDACTED has asked if Aviation can be added to the agenda for the meeting on Tuesday.

Apparently, SG published an Aviation statement today

It contains the following statement

“Governance arrangements for local authority and HIAL operated airports

The Scottish Government provides funding for HIAL’s airports, while some local authorities also provide airport services for scheduled passenger air services in the Highlands and Islands. We want to examine whether there is scope to realise economies of scale”

REDACTED wants to ask the FM whether this indicates a move toward more work coming to HIAL , and possible impacts on funding and staff

Correspondence 22 July 2024

From: REDACTED

Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 2:12 PM

To: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>

Cc: Gary Cox REDACTED

Press

Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>

Subject: Aviation Q&A - Weds

Hi REDACTED

We felt it might be prudent to have a Q&A for Weds, just in case any media bids stray off the chosen topic.

Subsequently, Cab Sec then requested a Q&A for her own media visits on Weds, in case aviation comes up (unlikely).

This will be factored into a wider media briefing for Cab Sec on Weds on running issues.

Thanks,

REDACTED

Text relating to the Aviation Statement:

Moving to the aviation strategy, what will change? The Aviation Statement sets out new 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; and 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.

What is the significance? 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. It serves to showcase both the recent improvements in Scotland's international connectivity and the sector's ongoing efforts to decarbonise flying.

Is the wider sector content? We would 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.

Correspondence dated

From: REDACTED

Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 4:17 PM

To: REDACTED

REDACTED REDACTED Gary Cox

REDACTED

Subject: RE: Aviation Path to Net Zero - Highlands and Islands 2040

Hi REDACTED

As REDACTED notes, HITRANS speak to us regularly on Aviation. In previous conversations, I've noted certain actions in the forthcoming Aviation Statement (and it truly is forthcoming!) and suggested that we could discuss them with HITRANS at some point. Some of those actions overlap with the points he makes below.

I'm not sure whether you intend to reply to REDACTED but, if so, you could say that you've forwarded the email to us and that we'd be happy to discuss policy suggestions once the Aviation Statement is published.

OUT OF SCOPE

Regards, REDACTED

Correspondence dated 24-25 June 2024

From: REDACTED
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 3:51 PM
To: REDACTED | Gary Cox REDACTED
REDACTED
Subject: RE: Transport 2022 GHG emissions - Summary (A48943899)

Hi REDACTED

Thanks very much for updating the emissions table and confirming consistency with previous years. No further additions are required, thanks. I made v minor changes to the introductory text.

Regards, REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:28 AM
To: REDACTED | Gary Cox REDACTED
REDACTED
Subject: RE: Transport 2022 GHG emissions - Summary (A48943899)

Hi REDACTED

I have put a new time-series chart together with the 2022 emissions data for domestic and international aviation included. Let me know if you need any further changes or input.

For your assurance, the GhG emissions dataset does not provide us with that level of granularity, so 2022 data will be consistent with previous years.

Unless you wanted to include some text around the change in aircraft movements between 2021 and 2022, then the emissions chart itself should be fine; if you wanted aircraft movement included then we would encourage that the original 95% change quoted last week is caveated with the Aberdeen charter issue skewing the data.

Hopefully this is helpful. Let me know if you would like to discuss further.

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 5:48 PM
To: REDACTED | Gary Cox
REDACTED

REDACTED

Subject: RE: Transport 2022 GHG emissions - Summary (A48943899)

Thanks **REDACTED**

There is a practical angle to this in that page 8 of our forthcoming Aviation Statement contains a table showing 'Scottish aviation emissions, 1990-2021'. Now that we have 2022 figures, are you able to update the table please? To allow for consistent and credible comparisons to be made, it's crucial that the 2022 figures adopt the same methodology as used for others years.

I take the point below about chartered aircraft but I'm not sure what effect stripping these out had had on overall 2022 emissions and whether it's fair to do a similar 'stripping out' for other years covered in the Aviation Statement table. Happy to discuss if easier.

Regards, **REDACTED**

Correspondence dated 16 July 2024

From: REDACTED

Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 8:26 PM

To: REDACTED

Gary Cox REDACTED

Subject: Article to accompany Aviation Statement

Afternoon chaps,

One of the caveats of not doing a photocall next week was to draft a 1st person piece, does this look ok?

OUT OF SCOPE

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.

Seeking to tackle the key question of balancing sustainable growth and supporting our thriving tourism sector, versus meeting our ambitious environment and climate change commitments, is always certain to provoke passionate debate.

It is a statement of intent. It sets out the actions we will take across Government to grow and enhance Scotland's international connectivity, secure lifeline services in the Highlands and Islands, and play its part in international efforts 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 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.

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 delivering our target for domestic flights to reach net zero by 2040.

I know that the public are often sceptical about strategies. 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 something as contentious and divisive as aviation versus climate change. 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, or to catch up with friends and relations they may not have seen since lockdown. 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 to xxxx along with the return of the Beijing route and increase in capacity on important routes like Doha, Dubai and Istanbul. 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, such as xxxx

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 relating to 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 while not returning to previous levels of emissions.

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.

Ends

Correspondence dated 19-24 July 2024

From: REDACTED
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 10:20 AM
To: REDACTED
Subject: Aviation Statement

REDACTED

I hope you are well. We've published our Aviation Statement today. I thought you might want to see it.

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/media/lq3eal0d/aviation-statement-and-key-priorities.pdf>

Thanks

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2024 11:02 AM
To: REDACTED
Subject: Aviation Statement

REDACTED

I hope you are well. This is the link to the Aviation Statement that was published on Wednesday. Would you be able to send it round the folk from the this morning's meeting?

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/media/lq3eal0d/aviation-statement-and-key-priorities.pdf>

Thanks

REDACTED

Correspondence dated June 19 2024

From: REDACTED
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 11:19 AM
To: REDACTED
Cc: REDACTED
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement

Hi REDACTED

The Aviation Statement itself was actually cleared a while ago, it's now the handling that's been agreed.

I'm CC'ing REDACTED to note the issues below. We'd be happy to feed into the ministerial briefing on these points, particularly the first.

Regards, REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 10:54 AM
To: REDACTED
Subject: RE: Aviation Statement

Thanks for sharing REDACTED, is the statement still to go for final Ministerial approval or has it all been done now. Basically asking which paper needs to reflect which.

OUT OF SCOPE

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

OUT OF SCOPE

Regards,

REDACTED



Transport Scotland, the national transport agency
Còmhdaill Alba, buidheann nàiseanta na còmhdaill

Please see our [privacy policy](#) to find out why we collect personal information and how we use it

From: REDACTED

Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 9:52 AM

To: REDACTED

Subject: Aviation Statement

Hi

This is very advanced planning, as I'm going to be on leave fairly soon, so there's no need for you to anything right now!

Finally, it looks like the Aviation Statement will be published sometime around Wednesday 24 July. Given it's been around for so long, I'd be really grateful if you could quickly check the various ICP refs to see whether any need to be updated. I'm not sure whether it would make sense to do this a bit closer to 24 July but I'll rely on your judgment.

Thanks,

From: Gary Cox [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2024 12:05 PM
To: Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Chief Executive Transport Scotland
<ceo@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Note from Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity - Aviation Statement - 25 June 2024

[REDACTED]

This doesn't concern the publication of the statement. We seem to be OK on that now that FM has accepted the explanation about not including measures to reduce domestic flights (not that we could do that anyway). So, intention to publish statement on 24 July still stands.

OUT OF SCOPE
[REDACTED]

G

From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2024 11:58 AM
To: [REDACTED] Gary Cox
[REDACTED] Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity <MinisterforAC@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Note from Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity - Aviation Statement - 25 June 2024

Hi both

Please see further comments from FM below. Grateful for some advice that I can share with the Minister please. Mr Fairlie is on leave but he is content to be contacted about this so helpful if that could be with PO as soon as possible.

OUT OF SCOPE
[REDACTED]

Many 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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Extracts of Briefings within the time period.

Extract of Briefing for visit by Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity - dated 25 June 2024

SG Aviation Policy Statement

Our public consultation on developing the Statement closed on 21 January 2022 and contained questions about growing Scotland's international connectivity; the transition to low and zero-emission aviation; domestic connectivity; and airfreight. The main reason for the delay in publishing the Statement is the need for it to align with ongoing policy development for, for example, the next climate change plan.

Key messages

- We will publish our Aviation Statement after the general election and will ensure it is complementary to other related work such as the Climate Change Plan and Island Connectivity Plan.
- The Aviation Statement will take into account the sector's primary responsibility for decarbonisation and the UK Government's 'Jet Zero' aviation strategy, which applies across the UK and contains various measures on decarbonisation that will affect emissions in Scotland.

Extract of briefing for visit dated 31 July 2024

The Scottish Government's Aviation Statement was published on 24 July 2024. It focusses on specific actions where we can make a meaningful contribution to growing Scotland's international connectivity, securing lifeline services in the Highlands and Islands and contributing to international efforts to decarbonise aviation. The report also showcases many positive developments in Scotland's international connectivity and the sector's ongoing efforts to decarbonise flying.

At the time of writing (24th July) reaction to the Aviation Statement has been limited.

REDACTED



The Aviation Statement acknowledges that the UK Government's 'Jet Zero strategy' for aviation decarbonisation applies throughout the UK; there is, therefore, already a UK strategy in place that will apply to Edinburgh Airport and the rest of the Scottish sector. We therefore need to make sure that Jet Zero delivers for Scotland, recognising that aviation is almost entirely reserved and that Scottish Government budgets are currently very limited.

The Statement also emphasises the aviation sector's primary responsibility for improving international connectivity and reducing emissions. It acknowledges that, in line with our legal commitments on net zero, the Scottish Government's actions must

encourage and complement these efforts while maintaining clear lines of responsibility and accountability.

Some outcomes and actions in the Statement may be of particular interest to the Airport:

‘Continually improve Scotland’s international connectivity to key markets for inbound tourism, business connectivity and export growth

Continue to support the decarbonisation activities of other airports [I.E. not just HIAL], where resources permit, in consultation with the sector.

Work with stakeholders to consider how to plan for and fund the cost of airport infrastructure for hydrogen/electric aircraft, including possible public sector support.’

To ensure that our actions actually help to drive significant change, the Statement notes that Ministers wish to meet regularly with aviation stakeholders to discuss the progress being made on reducing emissions and whether the various decarbonisation strategies, including ours, are working effectively together. We will shortly produce a submission to Ministers outlining how this could be done.

The Statement notes that dialogue with the sector will be particularly helpful in informing possible Scottish Government actions that would require significant public investment: “we could not, for example, offer public funding for the airport infrastructure required for hydrogen/electric aircraft without understanding how this is being planned for and funded by the sector itself”.

Key messages

The Scottish Government wants to achieve a just transition for aviation that helps to meet our wider legal commitment to achieving net zero emissions by 2045, and our ambition to decarbonise scheduled flights within Scotland by 2040.

Our new Aviation Statement describes the specific actions we will take to encourage decarbonisation and route development. We also want to stimulate a more positive and constructive conversation about aviation and its benefits to the Scottish economy.

The UK Government’s ‘Jet Zero’ aviation strategy applies across the UK and contains various measures on decarbonisation that will apply in Scotland. We will continue to encourage the UK Government to ensure that Jet Zero benefits Scotland.

The Statement takes into account the sector’s primary responsibility for decarbonisation and we want ongoing engagement with stakeholders to make our vision for aviation, including swift decarbonisation, a reality.

Given current budgetary pressures, the Scottish Government will wish to carefully consider where it can best add value in efforts to decarbonise aviation. We must also consider how the various aviation decarbonisation strategies, including ours, are working effectively together.