

Our Ref: RS/KS

2 June 2017

Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee
C/O Amy Kerr
Committee Assistant
Rural, Economy and Connectivity Committee
The Scottish Parliament

Dear Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee members

I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to provide evidence and information on the activities of Glasgow Prestwick Airport and our plans for the future.

Following our recent appearance at the Committee, we offered to come back with some further detail in relation to our passenger figures.

Please find below details of our passenger figures since the Scottish Government took ownership and our forecast for the 2017/18 financial year.

Actuals

FY14/15 (1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015) Actual	827,000
FY15/16 (1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016) Actual	624,000
FY16/17 (1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017) Unaudited Actual	678,000
FY17/18 (1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018) Forecast	710,000

Our Annual Accounts for financial year ending 31 March 2017 are still in the process of being audited. Until this audit is complete we are unable to provide a definitive publication date. We are working with our auditors (KPMG) to ensure that these are delivered by the end of September 2017 at the very latest. We will write to the Committee to provide them with a copy of these as soon as they have been through the parliamentary approval process and subsequently published on our website.

We would be delighted to welcome the Committee for a visit of the airport. We would propose that the visit commence at 11.00am to allow members to travel to Prestwick. Could I please ask that you contact Moragh Hastie on 01292 511327 or mhastie@glasgowprestwick.com with some suggested dates that would be convenient for Committee members to visit?

The proposed format of the visit would be to welcome members with tea and coffee and introduce them to the Executive Team and issue security passes (all members will be required to bring a passport or driver's license).

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We will then take them on a tour covering our air traffic control tower, Fire Service, Bristow Search and Rescue facility, Fixed Base Operations, cargo operations and finally a tour of the terminal building. We will follow the tour with a light lunch between 1.30pm and 2.30pm.


I would also like to take this opportunity to redress a comment I made in error in my evidence. In a discussion with regards to why an airline would choose to fly from Glasgow Prestwick Airport rather than a competing airport – I had hoped to point out a finding by the Airports Commission in regards to runway capacity challenges from 2030. The point I wanted to make was that it was important to ensure that Scotland retained and expanded its capacity and utilised this to its full potential to provide connections with the rest of the UK and the world.

I then – wrongly – used a competing airport as a hypothetical example. It was inappropriate of me to do so and I do not have the information on the inner workings of Edinburgh Airport to have made this comment. This statement should carry no weight and be no reflection of the ability of Edinburgh to continue to grow and expand its contribution to the Scottish Economy.

Glasgow Prestwick Airport's 24/7 operations, ample capacity, excellent facilities and service operations provide us with many advantages. We are flexible and adaptable and able to meet a wide range of requirements of airlines looking to access Scotland and into the north of England. The focus for our business continues to be rebuilding Glasgow Prestwick Airport through proactive communications and engagement on what we have to offer. As an advocate of a Team Scotland approach we are committed in doing this on our own merits and not through commenting on our competitors.

Our Chair has apologised in writing to Edinburgh Airport and extended our best wishes in its continued growth as an important contributor to the Scottish economy. I sincerely wish that all Scottish Airports experience continued growth and successes for the benefit of generations to come.

Yours sincerely,



Ron Smith
Chief Executive Officer