

British Air Line Pilots' Association
BALPA House
5 Heathrow Boulevard
278 Bath Road
West Drayton
UB7 0DQ

Tel: +44 (0) 20 8476 4000
Fax: +44 (0) 20 8476 4077
Email: balpa@balpa.org

www.balpa.org

Derek Mackay MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG



10th June 2019

Dear Derek

BALPA is the professional association and trade union for professional pilots, including helicopter pilots, in the United Kingdom. We represent pilots based at Glasgow, Prestwick, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and elsewhere across Scotland.

I write to express the concern of many of those members regarding the proposed Workplace Parking Levy and the unintended effect it may have on the working lives of pilots and consequently on the safety of the operation for which they are responsible.

As you will know, pilots are by necessity shift workers, but also ones with a safety-critical role. Duty hours are carefully controlled to ensure that fatigue is managed and mitigated. At the same time, report times are assiduously enforced to ensure an on-time operation is maintained in such a commercially sensitive and competitive field. Travelling by public transport to the airport for many is essentially impossible if pilots are to fulfil their professional obligations to report on time, well-rested, free from fatigue, and to be ready again the next day for another day's duty.

Report times in the very early hours of the morning are not uncommon when public transport is unlikely to be a realistic option for many, possibly outside of city centres. And adding extra hours on to pilots' duty days in order to use public transport is not a sensible way to proceed given the already high fatigue state of many pilots, and the current acute need to reduce, not increase, this flight safety threat.

We make no judgement on the advisability of this policy in the round, only insofar as it would negatively impact upon pilots' ability to conduct their work professionally and safely. I am sure you will take these concerns into consideration during further consideration of the policy, and I look forward to hearing how you will mitigate this specific problem for air crews.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian".
Brian Strutton
General Secretary

cc: Edward Mountain MSP, Convener, Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee,
Scottish Parliament