



Daniel Johnson MSP
Convener
Economy and Fair Work Committee

By email: economyandfairwork.committee@parliament.scot

17 February 2026

Dear Convener,

The status of Glasgow Prestwick Airport

In November, I advised the Economy and Fair Work Committee that the market testing process for Glasgow Prestwick Airport (GPA) had concluded. I also noted the exceptionally strong performance of the airport over the past year and the hard work and dedication of the management team and staff.

In November, I also confirmed that GPA will remain in public ownership and described our intention to work with the Board, management and staff to ensure that it enjoys a successful future. Since that time, we have therefore been working closely with the Chair and Chief Executive to consider how best to support the airport and given the Committee's interests, I thought it would be helpful if I provided an update on these discussions.

Our policy position remains that Scottish Government intends to return Glasgow Prestwick Airport to private ownership at the appropriate time and opportunity. We remain committed to protecting GPA's position as an operational airport and securing high value jobs and wider economic benefits for the Ayrshire region.

However, given the new revenue streams being generated by freighter traffic and work to develop the airport's wider customer base, including UK and allied armed forces, we consider a period of stability is required at the airport. This will provide time and space to maximise current commercial opportunities, further strengthen the leadership team and ensure that the airport remains on the path to a successful future.

We will not be commencing a formal market testing process in the near term. Our focus now is to support the airport's growth ambitions and any expressions of interest will be handled appropriately. Parliament will be informed if the position changes.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

I am sure you will agree with me that Glasgow Prestwick Airport's continued growth and prosperity benefits the people of Ayrshire and the people of Scotland as a whole. Whilst I will be leaving Parliament and Government later this year, I will remain keenly interested in the development and commercial success of this vital national asset.

Thank you,



KATE FORBES

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™
We invest in people Silver 

