Dear Humza,

I am writing regarding Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd’s (HIAL) proposal for centralisation of air traffic control so that it operates from one site for all seven Scottish regional airports.

The Committee is aware that concerns have been raised by the union Prospect on this plan, which include:

- Potential interruption to services due to lack of communication infrastructure, lack of back-ups, and lack of resilience;
- Impact on staff and local economies by centralising roles;
- The “conservative” cost estimate of remote towers compared to the cheaper local option;
- The risk of HIAL failing to deliver the project on time/on budget/at all;
- Dual mode control – Controlling two airports simultaneously presents safety risks.

The Committee would be grateful if you could clarify the Scottish Government’s involvement in this proposal, and also what the Scottish Government’s position is in response to the concerns listed above.
Kind regards

Edward Mountain
Convener