Inglis Lyon
Managing Director
Highlands and Islands Airports Limited
By e-mail only

Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee
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The Scottish Parliament
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Dear Mr Lyon,

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 what HIAL’s position is in response to the concerns listed above.
The Committee has previously written to the Scottish Government on this issue and I attach the response for your information.

Kind regards

Edward Mountain
Convener