

GLASGOW AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 199th Quarterly Meeting held in the Spence Room, Glasgow Airport on Monday 27 January 2025 at 10:00 am

Present

Apologies

The Chairman welcomed all to the 199th meeting. He was disappointed in the attendance and will be pursuing those who were not at the meeting.

The Chairman advised that all the GACC Minutes are up on the website with the exception of the last ones and he anticipated they will be on shortly.

Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes from the October meeting were circulated.

[] advised that the security slot he had referred to was at Schiphol Airport (page 2). [] advised that we are looking at something similar here.

[] referred to the point under 'Any other business' regarding attendance from ABTA. This should in fact have been the SPAA and not ABTA and this was noted. The Chairman pointed out that [] was our representative from SPAA.

Reference to [] of SPT should be [].

The Chairman said he would be having a meeting with [], Head of Corporate Affairs and Mr [] with a view to achieving better attendance at these meetings. [] said that Renfrewshire Council were also looking at this within their Council.

Subject to the above points the Minutes were agreed. The Chairman will arrange to have these put on the website.

Traffic Report and General Updates

Traffic

[] referred to Storm Eowyn and the various weather forecasts the Airport follows. He advised that 85% of travel was cancelled between 10:00 am and 7:00 pm which caused significant disruption. One member of staff was injured. There was significant damage to the Gama hanger. FOD gave the Airport an issue. Runways and grass areas were cleared of debris. Around four trees came down. Some staff had to be deployed to keep things safe. [] praised airport staff and all other organisations involved for their efforts and the Chairman added his thanks and appreciation.

[] said it was a good quarter.

The Chairman asked what the prospects were for additional routes for 2025 for the Glasgow market. [] advised that easyJet links look like softening for 2025. He said we are waiting for an update from the commercial team and we are budgeting towards having a better summer.

[] said that restoring connectivity has been the cornerstone of the commercial team. Things are heading in the right direction and we are working with the Scottish Government to improve connectivity and getting support for route development.

Numbers over last year are improving – not what they were but going in the right direction.

Airside

Bird strikes

There was a total of 10 medium/high strikes for 2024. Following a noted increase in medium/high strikes within the year, a review of the bird hazard management process was undertaken in October at the request of the AGS board to analyse trends, patterns and any gaps within our process. The review confirmed that Glasgow's process is fully robust with all preventative and dispersing methods in line with industry best practice which has given the board the assurance that Glasgow is fully compliant with regulatory requirements.

Noise

[] Head of Airspace Change and Noise advised that we had received 7 complaints for noise but nothing serious. The Chairman asked if people get responses to their enquiries about noise. He was asking as someone he knew from Bearsden said they hadn't had a reply and he wondered if this was the case. [] advised there was a system for following this up and they agreed to look at this.

Runway incursions

There were no runway incursions or runway safety events during the 4th quarter of 2024.

Airside developments/work streams in progress/completed

An update was given on several projects.

Airport Sale

[] advised that the airport was being bought by AviAlliance. More information would follow when the sale was completed. It has been 10 years since the airport was bought by Ferrovial and Macquarie.

Security

[] advised that there have been short and long term staff absence due to illness. We are looking at recruiting around 90 security staff for 2025.

[] touched on Project Dartmouth. Glasgow Airport is the first airport in the UK and Europe to deploy Automated Prohibited Item Detection technology trial (APIDS). ICTS security staff are trained to use Image on Alarm AI technology which aids the security officer in the detection of threats.

[] advised that he was hopeful that the restriction on liquids would be sorted before the summer and that 2 litres level would return.

[] said that they advise clients not to take any liquids over 100 ml.

The Chairman asked about the implication on WDF if passengers brought their own drink. [] said the cost of drink in Duty Free will still be cheaper. [] advised we are keeping an eye on this.

[] said we are looking into the prospect of buying duty free on arrival into Glasgow Airport.

Drones, laser incidents

[]

Terminal

[] advised that the position of two Terminal Support Officers and two seasonal Ambassadors have now been extended until the end of March 2025.

Improvements have been made to the first and ground floors of the International Pier giving a more comfortable feel and a fresh new look.

Winter Operations plans were reviewed and ready for the winter months and are working well this year.

Highland Dancers welcomed passengers to the airport on St Andrew's day and this was well received.

The Jobs Fair held on 17 January was attended by over 2,400 people and it was again a very successful event.

Public Affairs

On the back of the UK Government's launch in November 2024 of the Aviation Accessibility Task and Finish Group, [], Glasgow Airport's Terminal Assurance Manager, will be joining the group which will run in partnership between industry and consumers and look at tackling the biggest barriers to air travel for disabled passengers.

It was reported that the final drone flight trials of Project CAELUS took place during November and December between Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin and Aberdeen. This has been a very successful project and a close out event for the ground-breaking project will be held at the Glasgow Science Centre on Wednesday 29 January and will be supported by both UK and Scottish Government ministers.

[] advised that the Glasgow Airport FlightPath Fund's last meeting of 2024 was held on 22 November with over £27k awarded to various organisations.

Retail

[] advised that [] has joined AGS as the new Head of Retail Operations and Performance. She will be based at Glasgow but covering all 3 airports. The Chairman extended an invitation to her to attend a future meeting.

Aerospa will be relocated to a new site. Travelex airside unit will be demolished to create a large walk-through opening to Bird and Signet. Travelex will then open a new pod in the old Aerospa unit.

Update Noise Action report and Airspace Change Programme

[], Head of Airspace and Noise gave an update on Airspace Change Programme. He advised that the final drafts for the Noise Action Plan are ready to go to the Scottish Government.

Noise Insulation Scheme – [] advised that 4 or 5 houses are eligible for this but as yet nobody has taken it up. Links will provided for further information.

Any other business

The Chairman asked [] if it would be possible to have some representation from some of the retailers at our meetings.

The Chairman confirmed that [] is an operative member again.

[] asked if the 500 bus had a family ticket. [] agreed to look at this and would get back to [].

It was advised that cash is no longer accepted at Drop Off and Pick Up. The question was asked if taxi drivers could buy a pre-paid card. [] will take this question back.

The Chairman said again it would be really nice to see more people at these meetings from local authorities. If any committee members can think of anyone who might benefit from being on the committee, let us know. We have no females on the committee. We are looking for a more diverse committee.

[] advised that this was his last meeting as he was retiring before the next one. The Chairman thanked him for his excellent contribution to the committee and on behalf of everyone wished him well in his retirement. He will be invited to the lunch following the meeting on the 28 April.

Date of next meeting

Monday 28 April 2025.