



Our ref IG/EWCW/MMH/H/4/20/18/13
Your ref

Ask for Ewan Wallace
Direct Dial

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Ms Julie Hawes
Inquiry Co-ordinator
Competition Commission
Victoria House
Southampton Row
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04 May 2007

Dear Ms Hawes

Market Inquiry into the Supply of Airport Services by BAA Within the UK

I refer to your letter of 11 April 2007, seeking the views of interested parties with regard to the investigation referred to above.

Having examined the reasons for referral, the perspective from the Aberdeenshire Council area is that the choice of airport is as restrictive here as is the case in Lowland Scotland. The option for using the HIAL operated facility at Inverness is available for some of our population, but the 1½ to 2 hour average drive time, poor Public Transport links and limited services, lessen the attractiveness of that option.

The continued successful operation of the BAA operated Aberdeen Airport is critical to the economic prosperity of the North East of Scotland, and both Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Councils have developed excellent working partnerships with the management of Aberdeen Airport.

This ongoing relationship has supported significant expansion in the number of routes that currently operate out of Aberdeen, and has also resulted in the development of a comprehensive Master Plan for the expansion of the Airport.

It would, therefore, be of some concern if your investigation were to result in actions which in any way impacted upon the success of this excellent partnership, and I would encourage your investigators to widen their scope to consider such issues.

I would be happy to provide additional information to assist, should you require it.

Yours sincerely

Iain Gabriel
Director of Transportation and Infrastructure

c.c. Jim Knowles, Head of Economic Development, Aberdeenshire Council
Ewan Wallace, Head of Transportation, Aberdeenshire Council
Peter Cockhead, Director, Nestrans
Maggie Bochel, Head of Planning & Infrastructure, Aberdeen City Council