



Graeme Dey MSP

Minister for Transport  
The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Dear Minister,

We the undersigned are a broad coalition of UK and Scottish parliamentarians, Councillors, trade unionists and community members from all political parties and from none, who share significant concerns about the proposals by Highlands and Islands Airport (HIAL) to remove air traffic control staff from several airports across Scotland and centralise this function at Inverness.

We believe that there are significant unanswered questions in relation to these proposals in respect of technological feasibility, economic and social impact, and the availability of appropriate alternatives. These questions remain unanswered despite many of us having engaged with HIAL's Chief Executive.

This decision impacts some of the most precarious communities in Scotland, it comes at a time when the Scottish Government is consulting on providing direct financial support to families to relocate to these communities. We are concerned that HIAL's plan would directly undermine the stated policy object of the Scottish Government to encourage people with valuable skills and good jobs to move to the Highlands and Islands. We are further concerned that the way in which HIAL has pursued this project risks undermining the integrity of the Islands Act.

Many of us have sought engagement with yourself and your predecessors on this issue and we are now writing as a group to request a meeting in order that we can convey the strength of feeling on this issue from the communities and people we serve. This decision is as much a political one as an operational one, and we are writing to you to request you meet with us as a matter of some urgency to discuss this situation.

We look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely,

Garry Graham, Deputy General Secretary, Prospect

Alistair Carmichael MP

Angus MacNeil MP

Jamie Stone MP

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