

---

## 8 Information Bulletin

---

- Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide information and updates for the Board on a number of matters not requiring decision.

- Letter to British Airways concerning flight cancellations

At the 8 February 2010 meeting the Board were provided with a copy of a letter that had been sent to British Airways regarding the disruption caused to passengers to/ from Aberdeen and London pointing out the particular difficulties caused to the peripheral regions passengers.

A reply has been received from British Airways. A copy of this is attached as Appendix 1.

Also attached, as Appendix 2, is a summary of flight cancellations between Scotland and Heathrow due to current BA cabin crew strike action.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> runway at Heathrow

Objectors to the proposed 3<sup>rd</sup> runway at Heathrow Airport have successfully appealed to the High Court in London winning a judgment that “the government's policy support for a third runway will need to be looked at again”. The decision does not rule out a new runway but calls for a review “of all the relevant policy issues, including the impact of climate change policy”.

- East Coast begins installation of CCTV on trains

Train operator East Coast is installing CCTV cameras across its fleet of trains to enhance safety and security for customers. The installation of the cameras, which is expected to be completed by the end of the year, will see a total of 1,621 CCTV cameras fitted throughout East Coast's 43 trains, representing a £3.8 million investment in the rolling stock.

The CCTV cameras will be fitted to the interiors of train carriages to help protect passengers and staff against anti-social behaviour, assist authorities with convictions against offenders and hopefully act as a deterrent. A number of forward-facing cameras will also be installed within the train driver's cab to help monitor and assess operational incidents from the driver's perspective.

- ACSEF Youth summit

ACSEF held a very successful youth summit on 26 February 2010. This was attended by the First Minister.

During the summit the delegates were asked a number of questions relating to the North East and the future. A number of highlights from the questionnaires are as follows:

- 1/3 of respondents didn't think they would be living in our region by 2025
- ¼ of respondents intending going to University/ College didn't think they would attend an Aberdeen City or Shire establishment
- Roads and Transport was in the top 3 of areas they would like to see improved
- Transport was in the top 5 of things we lack in City and Shire
- Transport/ Roads was in the top 3 things that need improved to keep/ attract people to the area
- Public transport frequency, routes & connections, Lower prices and Investment in facilities were the top 3 things highlighted to improve transport
- Roads and Transport were the top 2 things highlighted as improvements needed in rural areas.

#### ● Access for All Small Scale Schemes

Following the joint North East submission, Transport Scotland has allocated a £20,000 grant to improve disabled access and integrated accessible transport solutions Below is a list of the successful schemes per station.

#### Aberdeen Station

- Highlighted for additional staff and listed as a priority station for Access Officers who will help and assist customers using the train station.

#### Laurencekirk Station

- Announcements will be considered to be introduced more frequently and to warn of fast approaching trains.
- Defects identified within the bid have been addressed and rectified.
- Corduroy matting will be installed at locations identified within the bid.

#### Inverurie Station

- A variable height ticket counter will be installed.
- Automatic doors for the main access has been highlighted as being high priority for installation.
- Improvements to the existing disabled toilet facility to allow adequate space for a wheelchair to gain entry, manoeuvre and the door to close will be considered.
- New platform seating will be installed at this station.
- Corduroy matting will be installed at locations identified within bid.

#### Dyce Station

- New platform seating will be implemented at this station

#### Insch Station

- Corduroy matting will be installed at locations identified within bid.

#### Huntly Station

- Automatic doors are scheduled for this financial year (2009/2010)
- Corduroy matting will be installed at locations identified.

#### Portlethen Station

- Two blue badge spaces already exist in the car park on the western side of the station. An additional blue badge parking space will be installed in the eastern car park to service the eastern platform.
- Access ramps to the waiting shelters on both platforms will be installed.
- Help points on both platforms will be installed.
- Corduroy matting will be installed at locations identified within bid.

#### Stonehaven Station

- Resurfacing of the access ramp will be carried out in 2010/2011 however if the access ramp requires total reconstruction this may delay timescales of the works until 2011/2012.
- Automatic doors and variable height ticket counter will be installed.
- The intercom system to allow access to the toilets is currently being considered at this station.

In addition to the above schemes Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council have agreed to install dropped kerbs on Station Road Dyce, Station Road and Conveth Place, Laurencekirk and install pedestrian signage from Aberdeen Rail Station to the Ferry Terminal from existing Council budgets this financial year.

- North East Transport Consultative Forum

The NETCF normally meets around twice per year to discuss issues of importance relating to transport in the North east. The last meeting was in October 2009 and it is therefore suggested that a meeting should be held before the summer recess.

As well as updates and general information-sharing regarding significant projects, it would be opportune to involve the Forum by a presentation and discussion regarding the draft Rail Action Plan, which was approved by the board at its last meeting in February 2010.

- Nestrans Press Releases

- GET CYCLING ROADSHOW BACK IN ABERDEEN!  
18/03/2010
- NESTRANS FORUM LAUNCHES FREIGHT ACTION PLAN  
09/03/2010
- POLICE OFFICERS GET ON THEIR BIKES TO TACKLE COMMUNITY CRIME  
12/03/2010
- WEST CULTS BRIDGE, FORMAL OPENING  
10/03/2010
- GETABOUT BY LOCAL TRAIN CAMPAIGN GETS UNDERWAY  
05/03/2010

- Getabout Events

#### **Launch of Police cycle patrol bikes**

At a very successful event on 12/03 at Inverurie police HQ Grampian Police received 12 police bikes which had been part funded by Nestrans. Starting with an event at Inverurie Academy where the Pro Endura Cycling team did activities with the children and then back to the Police HQ where the Transport minister handed the bikes to Chief Superintendent Mark McLaren. In all 5 papers covered the event along with STV who ran an interview with the police and film of the children at the academy. The police now have 23 bikes for patrolling Aberdeenshire towns and villages. The patrols are set to grow with more communities being included in the future

#### **Opening of West Cults Bridge**

The 10<sup>th</sup> March saw the opening of the new cycle/ foot bridge, funded by Nestrans, on the Deeside Way at West Cults by Councillor Kevin Stewart. Cllr Stewart unveiled a plaque marking the opening. This achieved press and Television coverage as well as a number of local people visiting. The use of the bridge was immediately apparent with lots of walkers, cyclists, runners and even a horse passing while the ceremony was taking place.

#### **Rail Adverts launched**

The latest stage of the local rail campaign was launched on 01 March when a series of posters were put up in Inverurie, Dyce, Aberdeen and Portlethen promoting local rail services. They build on the local stations rail timetables that are now available on line and come before the launch of a local rail guide. The posters feature local station names in a "digital" format with the slogan "if you want to GetABout locally, do it by train"

### **Getabout Partnership working**

The number of people in the North East working on sustainable travel may be small but the Getabout partnership has brought them together to work as a team. Of the 90+ events run under the branding about 80, or more have been staffed by people from organisations that were not directly involved. An example being the West Cults Bridge opening where the transport and setting up/dismantling was provided by the RGU Getabout representative.

### **Twitter/Facebook/Bebo**

Getabout is now active on all these formats the latest is Twitter where you can follow us on [http://twitter.com/get\\_about](http://twitter.com/get_about)

### **Dyce TMO**

The management committee of the TMO passed a motion to dissolve the organisation with immediate effect. Nestrans and Aberdeen City Council will be taking over the travel plan activity in the Dyce area

### **South Aberdeen Travel Plan Network**

At a breakfast meeting in Altens 16/03 a number of companies in the Altens/Tullos/Cove/Aberdeen gateway area agreed to form a network to promote travel planning in the South Aberdeen area in particular cost savings from pooling private hire buses. Next meeting in 6 weeks hosted by Shell

- Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.

RGM/26 March 2010

Willie Walsh  
Chief Executive

**BRITISH AIRWAYS** 

19 February 2010  
Our Ref: 7963342

Waterside (HBB3)  
PO Box 365 Harmondsworth UB7 0GB UK  
United Kingdom Tel 0844 493 0787  
Outside United Kingdom Tel +44 (0)191 490 7901  
Fax +44 (0)20 8759 9597

Councillor Kevin Stewart  
Archibald Simpson House  
27-29 King Street  
Aberdeen  
Aberdeenshire  
AB24 5AA

Dear Councillor Stewart,

Thank you for your letter regarding our flights between Aberdeen and London Heathrow that have recently been affected due to the bad weather. I apologise for the delay in replying. You make some interesting observations relating to decisions that our customers have to make for alternative travel arrangements to and from Aberdeen.

The snow in December and January reduced the flow of flights at London Heathrow. There are a number of factors that we need to take into account when reviewing our schedule in this situation. We do all possible to avoid disruption to our flights as we appreciate how this can greatly inconvenience you, our customer. I appreciate your feedback and we will bear this in mind for future weather disruptions.

Thank you for bringing this to my attention and for your constructive comments. I hope we can welcome you on a British Airways flight in the near future.

Yours sincerely,



Willie Walsh



## APPENDIX 2

### BA strikes

#### How has Aberdeen compared to Edinburgh & Glasgow?

Analysis of planes flying compared to planes scheduled:

Source: BA website

Planes running	Strike days			Percentage
	Sat 20th	Sun 21st	Mon 22nd	
ABZ - LHR	1 of 3	1 of 4	1 of 6	23.1%
EDI - LHR	2 of 6	0 of 6	4 of 9	28.6%
GLA - LHR	1 of 5	1 of 7	1 of 7	15.8%

Planes running	Between strike days				Percentage
	Tue 23rd	Wed 24th	Thu 25th	Fri 26th	
ABZ - LHR	1 of 6	5 of 6	3 of 6	4 of 6	54.2%
EDI - LHR	5 of 9	7 of 9	8 of 10	6 of 10	68.4%
GLA - LHR	2 of 7	4 of 7	5 of 7	5 of 7	57.2%

Planes running	Strike days				Percentage
	Sat 27th	Sun 28th	Mon 29th	Tue 30th	
ABZ - LHR	3 of 3	2 of 6	2 of 7	2 of 7	39.1%
EDI - LHR	6 of 7	4 of 7	4 of 11	4 of 11	50%
GLA - LHR	4 of 5	2 of 7	2 of 9	2 of 9	33.3%

Planes running	Between strike days				Percentage
	Wed 31st	Thu 1st	Fri 2nd	Sat 3rd	
ABZ - LHR	4 of 6	6 of 7	7 of 7	5 of 5	88%
EDI - LHR	6 of 11	10 of 11	11 of 11	7 of 7	85%
GLA - LHR	6 of 9	6 of 9	9 of 9	5 of 5	81.2%

Overall	Percentage
ABZ - LHR	55.3%
EDI - LHR	62.2%
GLA - LHR	50%

Note: This reflects only the numbers of planes running not the numbers of seats as larger aircraft may have been used.