



23 November 2013

## GLASGOW PRESTWICK AIRPORT

Dear Colleague

Further to my statement in the Chamber on 8 October 2013, I can confirm that the Scottish Government completed its acquisition of Prestwick Aviation Holdings Limited and associated companies today, for a nominal consideration of £1. The acquisition was on commercial terms, with the purchase price reflecting ongoing investment requirements. The airport remains fully open for business and existing staff remain employed at the airport.

As indicated in my statement of 8 October, we now expect to engage a commercial partner to operate the airport on our behalf, in conjunction with existing staff. In the first instance, we will be appointing senior advisory staff on an interim basis to make recommendations to us on strategic business development, building on the commercial opportunities identified during the acquisition process, and on the longer term management arrangements at the airport.

This acquisition secures continuity of service at Prestwick. We will now begin work, with local partners, on developing our vision for the business so that we can maximise its contribution to the local, regional and national economy. I will make a further statement to Parliament in due course to set out our plans in more detail.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Presiding Officer, all party leaders, the Convenor of the ICI Committee, local MSPs, MPs and the leaders of the three Ayrshire local authorities.

NICOLA STURGEON