

Minutes of the 214th EACC Meeting held on Monday 9th February 2026

At The Novotel, Hermiston Gait – Edinburgh

Present Robert Carr (Chair)
Gordon Dewar (CEO EAL)
Gordon Robertson (Communications Director EAL)
Greg Maxwell (Head of External Media and Corporate Affairs EAL)
Miles Grima (Head of Operations EAL)
Elin Owen (Content & Communication Manager EAL)
Adam Cumming Edinburgh Airport Amenities Group
Cllr Dave Dempsey Fife Council
Cllr Tony Boyle West Lothian Council (For Tom Conn)
Mike Tibbert General Manager Europe, SPAA
Carolyn Flynn Police Scotland
Gordon Mina Cramond & Barnton Community Council
David Dunphy Frequent Flyer Representative
Jimmy Martin ABTA
Elsbeth Gray Ratho & District Community Council
Thomas Miller Unite
Cllr Carol Hamilton Scottish Borders Council
Donald Spencer Consumers Representative
Emma Reid Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce

Apologies Blake Cushnie (EANAB)
Cllr Colin Cassidy Midlothian Council
Cllr John McMillan East Lothian Council
James Birch AOG
Rachael Murphy Sestran
Stephen Percy-Robb Fife Chamber of Commerce
Clare Johnston Passenger PRM Representative
Agnes Rothney Kirkliston Council
Cllr Kevin Lang City of Edinburgh Council

1. Welcome

Robert Carr welcomed all members attending as well as the observers.

2. The Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft Minutes of the meeting on 4th August have now been amended and are ready to be uploaded and the draft November minutes were approved.

3. Other matters arising from the Minutes

It was agreed that Tom Leatherland would now become the official substitute for Blake Cushnie representing EANAB at EACC meetings.

It was noted that there had been some changes in membership of the EACC and that there were currently only 23 out of a possible maximum of 25 members. It was agreed that consideration would be given to a new member from one of the community councils from a ward North of the Firth of Forth.

It was agreed that consideration would be given to a new member the aviation course at Edinburgh Napier University.

EACC members were invited to revert with any suggestions.

4. Chief Executive's Report (EAL)

Traffic Figures

Gordon Dewar commented that there had been 16.98 million passengers through the airport in 2025 which was an increase on the level of passengers in 2019 of +15%. He added that the runway repairs that had been carried out at weekends had gone well.

Domestic traffic figures showed that the number of flights were now pretty constant with a reduced number of movements but using larger aircraft. This had created more capacity and was beneficial in reducing the level of emissions.

International travel was booming and was sitting at +12.9% with more inbound passengers than most other UK airports.

Gordon Dewar also commented that there had been a reduction in the number of night flights in the last quarter of 2025.

Capital Investment

Capital investment of £100 million per year over the next 5 years was planned with the main major projects relating to the Terminal. A Masterplan was being created which would be available later this year

The south-east pier extension would provide an additional 8 gates and direct access to these stands had already started. The next phase would include a major extension to the main terminal area with everything being revamped including the immigration hall. Gordon Dewar commented that this would be operationally challenging but would all be carefully managed.

The car rental project was progressing with a view to creating additional capacity and it should be complete by the summer. The number of cars rented has been increasing with the rise in the number of passengers, particularly inbound. EAL was managing demand and was adding more charging points for electric vehicles.

Discussion followed in relation to the road access which required priority access for buses.

The Park & Ride overflow was being used by passengers and staff and additional options for public transport were ongoing and a priority.

The fuel capacity project was currently on pause but should be completed by the Autumn

Community Investment

Gordon Robertson provided an update on the Community Fund Board chaired by Alex Cole-Hamilton which allocated donations to a number of projects. The value of these donations was likely to reach £250K in 2026.

The Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity partnership had now ended with about £23,000 donated in Quarter 4 and the new charity would now be Change Mental Health. This would bring profile for the charity and its causes to the staff and the passengers.

NHS Fife had been involved with an emergency medicine team and Jet2 to look at casualties around and aircraft and there was consideration being given to whether this should be extended to other local NHS bodies.

Surface Access

Figures were still very strong with the market share of public transport sitting at 41.2%.

The Fife bus route had proved to be very successful and there had been changes on the Aberdeen coach supplier, but this service was still running

Aircraft Noise

Gordon Robertson commented that the Noise Action Plan had been approved and that the Noise Insulation Scheme had been launched in mid-November with 45 applications received already and these were now being worked through.

The new monitor at Craigiehall had been approved and the report for the monitor at Dalgety Bay had been signed off and will be forwarded to EANAB before the full release of the findings.

Gordon Mina raised the question about whether there was any flexibility in the areas under consideration for the Noise Insulation scheme and it was suggested that any queries should be forwarded to EAL.

Route Development

Gordon Dewar talked about the ongoing increase in not only the new routes such as American Airlines to Philadelphia and New York but also the extension of seasonal flying by Jet2, EasyJet and Air Canada. He also spoke about Pegasus who had now increased to a daily summer service and the additional new route from Vueling to Bilbao.

Passenger Satisfaction

The latest figures showed that the level of complaints had gone down with the main item still referring to journey preparation. Security continued to receive positive comments and issues at passport control had received less complaints.

Feedback to EAL on any issue could be made by a number of channels. It was agreed that David Dunphy and Donald Spencer would meet with Gordon Robertson as a means of providing and responding to comments on the passenger experience.

5. Air Space Change Update

The Consultation had closed on the 25th January and it was agreed that the process had been positive with 1875 responses received and that these were now being considered and analysed. There would also now need to be consultation with NATS. Glasgow had also seen good community dialogue and thanks were given to EANAB for their attendance at the meetings.

Results should be ready at the end of the summer as the CAA needed to formulate the data.

Cllr Tom Conn commented that some residents and councils had not heard of the consultation. Gordon Robertson responded by advising that there had been leaflet drops, and that it had been featured on local radio, Facebook, X, Instagram, posters in libraries so most areas should have been covered or heard about the consultation.

The first dialogue had been with EANAB and then both EANAB & EACC had been consulted and given input on the wording and design on the consultation material.

6. Noise Action Plan Update

Gordon Robertson said that the insulation scheme was very important and asked that if there were any queries that they should be sent to EAL for them to consider.

7. EANAB Update

Tom Leatherland talked about considerable involvement on the part of EANAB during the consultation on the Noise action Plan. There had been at least one member at every drop-in session and EANAB had responded to the ACP consultation.

EANAB had now gained a few new members which was positive.

There had been a number of new consultations coming forwards including one on environmental noise. EANAB had responded to the CAP161 revision, the AND/ANG DfT proposals and the Scottish Government.

Night Noise and Health Issues. Tom Leatherland reported that there continues to be a steady production of papers arising from research into the effects of night noise – effects of noise on health as well as stress, impacts on sleep patterns etc. These continue to be monitored. It was commented that the nighttime cargo planes tended to be very noisy as well as wide bodied aircraft. The links between aircraft noise and stress was the subject of ongoing research.

EANAB hoped to have its Annual Report ready for the May meeting

8. UKACC Update.

Robert Carr gave an update on the Annual Meeting held at Bristol in November 2025 covering the main areas of discussion and presentations including:

- DfT on number of people lost with aviation skills;
- DfT session on accessibility and how to tackle this;
- Discussion on Sustainable Aviation Fuel which is planned for 10% by 2030;
- European TS;
- Security and border control transformation with e visas/EES and ETA and the challenges plus e gates;
- ACP study on night flights and the need for a true definition on the timings of a night flight whether it is CAA or WHO;
- CAA session on special assistance and the need for a unified structure on environmental reporting which they will be publishing a report on.

UKACC had also produced a Practical Guide on Airport Consultative Committees which shared practice, ideas & Experience on the working of a consultative committee.

9. New CCO Stephanie Wear – challenges and way forward

Gordon Dewar reported on the change in ownership and the new initiatives.

There were now a number of new appointments with Stephanie Wear as Chief Commercial Officer joining from Gatwick Airport. Gail Taylor had departed for Sydney Airport.

Graeme Gibson, who had been with the airport for 10 years had now been replaced by Peter Barnes as Chief Operations Officer. Pierre Maxime Lemonnier was now Deputy Chief Financial Officer and there had been additional changes in technical, IT and Engineering.

Kate Sherry had now relocated to Belfast Airport, Jonny MacNeal had gone to Gatwick Airport and Adam Wilson had now gone to Malaysian Airlines.

The new team were all working well and the outlook remained very positive.

10. Review Of Rolling Action

All points covered under matters arising.

11. AOCB

There was a discussion about Air Departure Tax (ADT). ADT is Scotland's replacement for Air Passenger Duty (APD), the UK-wide tax on passengers flying from UK airports. ADT will start on 1 April 2027. Until then, APD continues to apply in Scotland. Passengers on flights leaving Highlands and Islands airports are currently exempt from APD. This exemption is vital for these remote communities. The Scottish Government had published a consultation on [Delivering Scotland's Air Departure Tax](#) on 29 January

2026. The consultation seeks views and evidence on the proposed new Highlands and Islands exemption, higher rates of tax for private jet flights and wider ADT policy. The consultation closes on 26 March 2026 and EACC members who were interested were encouraged to respond. The Scottish Government was engaging with stakeholders alongside the consultation process, prior to the commencement of the pre-election period.

There was discussion on the EACC Annual Report for 2025.

There was no other business, and the meeting was closed at 12.15 with the next meeting scheduled to take place on Monday 11th May at 10.30am at The Novotel.