



**EDINBURGH
AIRPORT
CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2023**

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

As Chair of the Edinburgh Airport Consultative Committee (EACC) I am delighted to welcome you to our Annual Report covering our work during 2023.

The EACC was established by Edinburgh Airport Ltd (EAL) by virtue of its statutory obligation to provide adequate facilities for consultation to a broad cohort of stakeholders on any matter of interest concerning Edinburgh Airport's management and operation.

The EACC is independent of EAL.

EACC conducts its business through four quarterly meetings and by correspondence between meetings as required.

The EACC has published this first Annual Report as a further step in improving our community engagement and increasing our transparency. This follows the opening of our quarterly meetings to the public and the posting on our webpage of our Constitution, the minutes of our meetings with any presentations we have received, together with the written reports by the Chief Executive of EAL which we consider and scrutinise at these meetings.

You can access our webpage here:

<https://corporate.edinburghairport.com/community/edinburgh-airport-consultative-committee>

In addition to being independent and transparent our other values include being representative, knowledgeable, constructive, effective, diverse and inclusive. We have agreed our aims and now these aims and values will be delivered and embraced, and how we will operate. We set own agendas and track agreed actions by a rolling action plan.

EAL has also established the Edinburgh Airport Noise Advisory Board (EANAB) and the Edinburgh Airport Accessibility Forum (EAAF) and we liaise with those bodies in carrying out our remit.

There are twenty-five EACC members, a number that gives everyone the opportunity to make their contribution at our meetings. Our members include our excellent and knowledgeable Secretary, Janice Hogarth, elected members from each of the six surrounding councils and the three nearest community councils, representatives from commerce, consumer bodies, the unions, travel agents and the travel industry, air traffic control, the police, transport interests, and from EANAB as well as a representative for passengers who need assistance, have restricted mobility or have hidden disabilities and a representative who is a frequent flyer. Our members are listed in this Report.

EAL is represented at our meetings by its Chief Executive and other senior officials.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Our core purpose is to shine a light on the topics in relation to which our members wish to engage with EAL. That involves our members raising matters on behalf of constituents and stakeholders they represent, and receiving explanations from EAL which our members then pass back. It involves the EACC receiving information from specialists in relevant areas. Crucially, it involves EAL bringing to the EACC proposals at a time when they are public but still at a formative stage, with sufficient reasons and time for the EACC to give the matter proper consideration and make a response. It involves EAL providing the EACC with adequate reasons as to how it has conscientiously taken into account the responses from the EACC when finalising its decision. In that way the consultation is a fair and worthwhile exercise. Our members represent diverse interests whose policies and objectives are not always aligned with one another, or with EAL. I am delighted that it has been my experience that all attending EACC meetings, whatever their differing viewpoints, have treated each other with respect and courtesy at all times. EACC members have also shared informative visits to the airport including behind the scenes, “airside” and to the iconic control tower. Future visits are being arranged for 2024. Our work continues between meetings, responding to consultations and making representations to reflect those diverse interests and differing viewpoints.

We have a number of key issues which we keep under ongoing consideration. These issues include the whole passenger experience from arranging their journey, getting to and from the airport, parking, drop-off, check-in, security, hospitality and retail facilities, timekeeping, border control and baggage reclaim. We appreciate that the airport operates through a complex network of separate commercial entities and there are lots of fast-moving parts beyond the direct control of EAL. However, EAL can and does exercise its considerable commercial leverage when that is necessary. We expect it to do so. In a competitive travel market, EAL and the passenger share a common interest for the experience of travelling through Edinburgh Airport to be as good a one as possible. Another key issue is the impact of the airport and its related activities on the environment and biodiversity including the climate crisis, noise and air quality. The airport’s role in ground connectivity and transport infrastructure and the current UK wide Air Space Change programme are also regular items. Finally, we keep updated on wider aviation strategy as the threats of COVID diminish for most, but not all, and in a world torn by conflict.



WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Aviation is not a devolved matter, so is reserved to Westminster, although much of what is done at and around the airport is regulated through Holyrood and local authorities. We have the benefit of being part of a family of consultative committees at airports across the United Kingdom (UKACC) which shares good practice, which shares information on all these important topics and through which we engage with the Civil Aviation Authority and the UK Department for Transport (DfT). Janice and I represent the EACC on the UKACC's Working Group and at its Annual Meeting. A weekly bulletin from the UKACC covering consultations and international, national and local issues is distributed to all EACC members.

I hope that you feel better informed on the work of the EACC through reading this Report and if you have any issues about the management and operation of Edinburgh Airport please do not hesitate to raise this through one of our members or directly by emailing our Secretary at the email address below.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank all the EACC members, in particular our hardworking Secretary Janice Hogarth, all those who have attended from EAL and all who have presented at our meetings, for the considerable individual and collective contribution they have all made. I also thank our observers for their attendance at our meetings and the interest they have shown.

Robert Carr
EACC Chair

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S FOREWORD

This year has seen an almost full recovery for Edinburgh Airport following the severe issues caused by the Covid pandemic, and it has been heartening to see passenger numbers rebound as we added more flights and welcomed new airlines to the capital.

Progress has been seen across many areas of the business and, as always, we have identified areas where we can improve as we begin to plan for the future of the airport.

The Edinburgh Airport Consultative Committee has once again proved to be a useful sounding board throughout the year, providing valuable feedback and insight into a range of issues.

Our discussions have been vibrant and the challenge the EACC has presented has allowed us to consider our thinking and react to the salient points raised, and we look forward to continuing that constructive relationship in the year ahead.

Gordon Dewar, Chief Executive of Edinburgh Airport.



WORK OF THE EDINBURGH AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting dates in 2023:

- **Monday 6 February**
- **Monday 1 May**
- **Monday 7 August**
- **Monday 6 November**

WORK OF THE EACC

The Chief Executive's Report to the EACC

The Quarterly Report of the Chief Executive is now presented in four sections headed:

- Enhancing Scotland
- Scotland's Best Business
- Zero Carbon
- Trusted Neighbour

As required by the EACC the report always covers the following matters with historical comparisons and performance indicators-

- a. traffic figures,
- b. capital investment,
- c. community investment,
- d. surface access,
- e. aircraft noise, air quality and other environmental impacts,
- f. route developments,
- g. passenger satisfaction,
- h. airspace change,
- i. interaction by the airport operator with other relevant bodies such as the Edinburgh Airport Accessible Forum and the Edinburgh Airport Noise Advisory Board, and
- j. the provision of services for disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility.

The Chief Executive's reports are available on the EACC webpage.

Airspace Change

UK airports are being required by the UK Government to modernise their use of airspace and Edinburgh Airport is part of that airspace masterplan.

Consequently, this airspace change programme is a topic that is of interest to EACC members and the people they represent. EAL is part way through the airspace change process and the EACC is a key partner and consultee as EAL engages with a wide variety of stakeholders and its proposals evolve. As such, the EACC receives regular updates on progress and participates in the relevant engagement sessions.

WORK OF THE EACC

Noise and other environmental issues

The EACC is acutely aware of the impacts the airport and its associated activities have on neighbouring communities who are, of course, represented on the EACC. EAL is committed to working to eliminate, reduce or mitigate all adverse impacts where possible and in terms of its obligations.

The issue of noise and night flights is one that is spoken about at every EACC quarterly meeting. This is a standing item that will continue in 2024 as the issue is one regularly discussed by representatives and their communities.

The Edinburgh Airport Noise Advisory Board (EANAB) was established to create and maintain a focused pathway for communities to engage with the airport on issues relating to aircraft and noise, with the primary aim of minimising noise impact on affected or potentially affected areas. The Chair and another member of EANAB sit on the EACC and provide a link between the two bodies including reports to the EACC on EANAB's activities.

Other environmental matters are addressed in the "Trusted neighbour" section of the Chief Executive's Report and subject to question and comment by the EACC.

Passengers with Reduced Mobility

This important topic is discussed at every EACC meeting. The EACC was pleased that Edinburgh Airport regained its CAA "Very Good" status following a range of actions that EAL has taken. The EACC has encouraged and challenged EAL to continuously improve and expand the service where it can. In November 2023 EAL updated members on its decision to outsource the PRM service to OCS in December 2023 and the reasons behind that.

Clare Johnston, the EACC member who represents passengers who need assistance, have restricted mobility or have hidden disabilities, attended the DfT's Accessibility Workshop on behalf of the UKACC in November 2023.

In 2024 the EACC and the Edinburgh Airport Accessibility Forum (EAAF), which advises EAL on its approach to passengers with reduced mobility and additional needs, are further working together to strengthen their links.

WORK OF THE EACC

Sustainability

At the meeting of the EACC in February 2023, the Committee heard from Andy Jefferson from Sustainable Aviation, an umbrella group representing the aviation industry that is working on a long-term approach to tackling the challenges of ensuring a cleaner, quieter, smarter future for aviation. He laid out the task facing the industry and some of the initiatives that have been taken and are planned.

EANAB Report

In May 2023, the EACC heard from Lindsay Cole, the outgoing Chair of EANAB, with an update on the steps EANAB and EAL were taking to implement the recommendations in the Report published in February 2022 reviewing the effectiveness of the arrangements and practices in place through EANAB for EAL to engage with affected communities on minimising noise issues and impacts arising from operations the the airport.

The EACC was updated on the other work EANAB was undertaking as well as some of the steps the airport was taking in relation to noise.

Policing at the airport

In May 2023, Inspector Derek McWhinnie of Police Scotland gave an overview of policing at the airport and the roles that his team plays. He provided insights into the type of incidents he and colleagues deal with and the close working relationship between EAL and Police Scotland. Inspector McWhinnie identified the demarcation in responsibilities and collaboration as between Police Scotland and UK Border Control.

Community Strategy

Aaron McKeen, EAL's Sustainability Manager updated the EACC in August on the new Community Engagement strategy that EAL has adopted and would be implementing. This would focus on three principles: Re-engage, Reconnect and Impact. The EACC heard from Aaron that EAL views its relations with local communities as important to its day-to-day business and his new, dedicated role was a demonstration of that commitment.

WORK OF THE EACC

SEStran's Transport Strategy

The August meeting also received an educative presentation from Brian Butler, the new SEStran Partnership Director and a new EACC member.

The South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SEStran) is the statutory Regional Transport Partnership for the South East of Scotland. SEStran encompasses eight local authorities: City of Edinburgh, Clackmannanshire, East Lothian, Falkirk, Fife, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and West Lothian.

Brian outlined SEStran's new Transport Strategy and its objectives in addressing the climate crisis and the need for a fully integrated transport system that is affordable and accessible to all.

New Chair of EANAB

In November, at the final EACC meeting of 2023, the EACC heard from Blake Cushnie, the new Chair of EANAB. Blake spoke about his background in aviation and traffic control in Canada and some of the initiatives he had worked on and introduced while working in the industry. He explained that he had only been in the role for a matter of weeks at that point and was looking forward to working with EANAB and EAL on the issue of noise, and to having a productive relationship with the EACC.

EACC MEETINGS 2024

Dates for the EACC meetings in 2024 have now been set, with all meetings taking place at Novotel Edinburgh Park Hotel:

- Monday 5 February
- Monday 6 May
- Monday 5 August
- Monday 4 November

All meetings will be in public, and members of the public are welcome to attend to observe.

This is subject to change where and when required.

To attend any meeting or to log a query with the EACC, people can send an email marked FAO EACC to: communications@edinburghairport.com or janicehogarth@yahoo.com

EACC MEMBERS

Chair: Robert Carr

Secretary: Janice Hogarth

- Cllr Kevin Lang (City of Edinburgh Council)
- Cllr Dave Dempsey (Fife Council)
- Cllr John McMillan (East Lothian Council)
- Cllr Tom Conn (West Lothian Council)
- Cllr Colin Cassidy (Midlothian Council)
- Cllr Carol Hamilton (Scottish Borders Council)
- John Howison (Cramond and Barnton Community Council)
- Pamela Hull (Kirkliston Community Council)
- Kate Watt (Ratho & District Community Council)
- Jimmy Martin (ABTA)
- Kate Nowakoska (Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and Industry)
- Stephen Robb (Fife Chamber of Commerce) *
- Donald Spencer (Consumers' Association)
- Adam Cumming (Edinburgh Airport Amenity Group)
- Frank McCartney (AOG)
- Sandy Legget (Air Navigation Solutions) **
- Ken Richards (Fife Chamber of Industry and Commerce)
- Carrie Binnie (Unite)
- Clare Johnston (Passenger Assist/PRM Service Users Representative)
- Inspector Caroline Flynn (Police Scotland) ***
- Inspector Derek McWhinnie (Police Scotland) **
- Ken McNab (Travel Consultant)
- Brian Butler (Sustrans)
- Lindsay Cole (Edinburgh Airport Noise Advisory Board) **
- Blake Cushnie (Edinburgh Airport Noise Advisory Board) *
- David Dunphy (Frequent Flyer)
- Agnes Rothney (Kirkliston Community Council) **

*Joined 2023

**Departed 2023

***Joined 2024