
Edinburgh Airport Consultative Commitee

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Welcome and introduction

Chair's Foreword

As Chair of the Edinburgh Airport Consultative Committee (EACC) I am delighted to welcome you to our Annual Report covering our work during 2024.

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.

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

The EACC is publishing its second Annual Report as an ongoing step in improving our community engagement and increasing our transparency. We continue with our quarterly meetings being open to the public and the posting on our webpage of our Constitution, the agendas and 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. A member of the media has been a regular attendee as an observer at our meetings in 2024.

You can access our webpage by [clicking here](#).

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 local authorities and the three nearest community councils, representatives from commerce, for consumers, the unions, travel agents and the travel industry, 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 current members are listed in this Report.

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

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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 the 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 decisions. It 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 fire station and the iconic control tower. Our work continues between meetings, responding to consultations and making representations to reflect those diverse interests and differing viewpoints.

2024 has been a record and historic year for EAL and the airport. In June 2024 VINCI Airports acquired a majority shareholding in EAL.

In 2024 the airport welcomed a record 15 million passengers in a single year, a milestone achieved for the first time ever at a Scottish airport.

Edinburgh Airport is among the first airports in the UK to achieve growth in both passenger numbers and connectivity options following Covid.

The record-breaking year came as the airport introduced new routes in 2024 and facilitated travel for major events.

Other key milestones included:

- Emirates returning to Edinburgh with a daily service to Dubai.
- JetBlue entering the Scottish market with daily flights to New York during the summer.
- WestJet expanding its presence by adding Toronto and Halifax to its Calgary service.
- Increasing frequency into and connections to Germany as the Tartan Army went to cheer on Scotland at Euro 2024.
- Taylor Swift fans flying in from all over the world to attend her concerts at Murrayfield.

The airport has already announced new routes and airlines for 2025, such as the return of American Airlines and its Philadelphia route, JetBlue adding Boston to its options, and Austrian Airlines entering the Scottish market with its seasonal route to Vienna.

In 2024 one of Scotland’s renowned academics, Professor Duncan MacLennan published an independent Report commissioned by EAL as part of its “Greater Good” sustainability strategy exploring how Edinburgh Airport can shape a more prosperous Scottish economy moving towards net zero.

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Professor MacLennan, an economist with an international reputation for work relating to cities, neighbourhoods, infrastructure and housing, examined how leading global cities work with their local airports and how those collaborative relationships can benefit, economically and environmentally, the wider communities, cities, regions and nations they serve. Professor MacLennan looked at the role of Edinburgh Airport in civic Scotland by reviewing international experience and contrasting Edinburgh and Scotland's approach to balancing aviation emission reductions and economic wellbeing with strategies now being deployed in Sydney and Toronto.

With these successes for EAL in increasing passenger numbers and routes come challenges in infrastructure, capacity and maintaining the passenger experience for all. So in the wake of these highlights for EAL and the airport, at the EACC 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.

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 (UKACCs) 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 UKACCs' Working Group and at its Annual Meeting. A weekly bulletin from the UKACCs 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

Welcome and introduction

Chief Executive's Foreword

Last year was a record breaking year for Edinburgh Airport as it welcomed almost 15.8 million passengers through our doors. That's a record for any Scottish airport, and is something we are immensely proud of.

That growth in passengers is fantastic and was delivered by an incredible workforce, who are committed and driven as ever to maintain our position as Scotland's busiest airport and continue to deliver a high standard service for passengers. We managed to do this despite the challenges that growth brings in the shape of capacity constraints and resilience, and our capital programme has reflected that with a range of improvements ahead of what I'm confident will be another record year in 2025.

That investment, growth, and the operation to manage it is something we've discussed at length with the Edinburgh Airport Consultative Committee, gaining its views and insights as we have gone throughout the year. The EACC helps us examine our thinking and provides challenge and encouragement where and when required, and we also view the forum as a way to explain the real-life opportunities, challenges, and decisions that are present and need to be taken. I look forward to working and engaging with the Committee throughout 2025.

It was also a year of change for the airport, as welcomed new majority shareholders in VINCI Airports, working alongside Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP) in a new strategic partnership at EDI. We now have the benefit of working with a firm that has more than 70 other airports across 14 countries, allowing us to tap into best practice and knowledge across a range of issues, and to also share our expertise to help them. That transition has been smooth and we have already made great strides with each other, something that will continue over the next few years.

As ever, the thing that has made me most proud has been the people that work here. Every day they demonstrate a commitment and a drive to not only the airport, but also the passengers who use the airport. From 3am starts to 11pm finishes, working on the runway in the small hours of the morning, to the people who ensure we have lights and air conditioning, this is a team that I am grateful to be a part of, and it is always a pleasure to listen to them, hear their stories, and take that enthusiasm to new and existing partners across the world. I thank them for their stellar work, and look forward to the year ahead.

Gordon Dewar
Chief Executive, Edinburgh Airport

Work of the EACC

Meeting dates in 2024:

Monday 5 February

Monday 6 May

Monday 5 August

Monday 4 November



Recurring items

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

Airspace change was discussed at every EACC meeting in 2024.

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.

Recurring items

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 issues of noise and night flights were topics discussed at every EACC meeting in 2024.

The 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. Throughout 2024 the Chair and another member of EANAB sat on the EACC and provided a link between the two bodies including by presenting reports to the EACC on EANAB's activities at every EACC meeting in 2024.

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

Passengers with Reduced Mobility

This important topic was also discussed at every EACC meeting in 2024.

The EACC was pleased that in 2024 Edinburgh Airport was awarded a "Good" status by the CAA in its annual Airport Accessibility Report. The EACC has encouraged and challenged EAL to continuously improve and expand the service where it can.

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 and presented her report to the EACC meeting in February 2024.

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

Evidence heard

Passenger experience and summer readiness

At the EACC meeting in February 2024 the EACC heard an update from EAL on the enhancements well advanced at the airport in terms of physical changes to the terminal, including in preparation for the new security scanners and in terms of staff recruitment, to improve the passenger experience and be ready for the busy summer ahead. New lanes had been added and the flow through security was working well. New retail offerings were opening particularly “airside” and there was now more resilience in baggage check-in and reclaim. Discussions were underway with transport agencies to enable more integrated ticketing to increase passenger numbers and ease the planning of journeys.

The EACC received updates on the topic of the new security scanners at every subsequent quarterly meeting in 2024. EAL ordered eight high-tech 3D X-ray scanners as part of the UK Government’s requirement to scrap the 100ml liquids rule. As part of the EAL’s rolling programme of installation the first new scanner became operational at the airport in April 2024. These new scanners more accurately detect prohibited items and reduce the need to remove liquids, laptops and tablets from hand baggage.

Planning for Development around the Vicinity of the Airport

At the EACC meeting in May 2024 the EACC received presentations and contributions from City of Edinburgh Council officers on the legislative basis for decisions on planning and building control, the national planning framework, the consultation process and how the presence of the airport is taken into account in planning decisions.

Investing in People and Places

At the EACC meeting in November 2024 the EAL Operations Manager gave a detailed update on all the new projects that are being undertaken at the airport and are planned, including the developments to transform the check-in area, the bag-drop and a 23-metre video wall which will give passengers much better information on flights and wayfaring.

As the airport continues to expand, EAL is committed to collaborating, engaging and consulting meaningfully with the EACC on all the matters that are relevant to the EACC and the passengers, workers, communities, enterprises and citizens that the EACC members represent.

The year ahead

Dates for the EACC meetings in 2025 have now been set, with all meetings taking place at Novotel Edinburgh Park Hotel:

- Monday 10 February
- Monday 5 May
- Monday 4 August
- Monday 10 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 Community Council)
- Agnes Rothney (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 Representative)
- Adam Cumming (Edinburgh Airport Amenity Group)
- James Birch (AOG)
- Sandy Legget (Air Navigation Solutions)
- Carrie Binnie (Unite)
- Clare Johnston (Passenger Assist/PRM)
- Inspector Caroline Flynn (Police Scotland)
- Ken McNab (Travel Consultant)
- Brian Butler (Sestrans)
- Blake Cushnie (Edinburgh Airport Noise Advisory Board)
- David Dunphy (Frequent Flyer)