

April 2013

## **Submission by Aberdeen International Airport to the Airports Commission**

### **Discussion Paper 02: Aviation Connectivity and the Economy**

#### **Introduction**

Aberdeen International Airport welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Airports Commissions' discussion paper on Connectivity and the Economy. Given its location, Aberdeen has some distinct connectivity challenges but also some unique characteristics among UK airports.

Aberdeen International Airport (AIA) has grown rapidly over the past twenty years. In 1992, Aberdeen Airport handled 2.2 million passengers. By 2012, according to analysis by the CAA, passenger numbers had reached 3.3 million.

Future forecasts suggest that AIA will handle 4 million passengers by 2015 and up to 5.9 million by 2030, a growth rate of 2% over the period.

As one of the world's busiest commercial heliports, and the gateway to Europe's energy capital, the ability to transfer people, goods and services from the north-east quickly and affordably is key to our business success, and to the success of the wider region.

The north east of Scotland is widely recognised as a major hub for the oil and gas energy, with more than 1,000 companies operating wholly or predominantly in the energy sector. The industry supports some 137,000 jobs locally, accounting for almost 60% of the region's overall employment and 6% of Scotland's overall employment.

Oil and gas is an essential part of the region's economic DNA, but the north east is also an important centre for life sciences, engineering, shipping and manufacturing. Global giants such as First Group and Aberdeen Asset Management have their headquarters in the city. And 15 of Scotland's top 50 businesses are based in Aberdeen city and shire. These businesses rely heavily on the international connections provided by Aberdeen Airport – almost 60% of our passengers are business travellers, the highest rate of any Scottish airport.

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