



**Aberdeen &
Grampian
Chamber of
Commerce**

Fiona Hyslop MSP
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Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Eastern Airways

I write regarding the troubling reports today that Eastern Airways has filed a notice of intention to appoint administrators for its trading subsidiaries, Eastern Airways (UK) and Air Kilroe.

Eastern Airways currently operates a number of routes that connect Aberdeen Airport with Humberside, Teesside International and Wick. The Aberdeen - Wick route is a Public Service Obligation route that keeps the most northerly part of the Scottish mainland connected to Aberdeen.

The other routes that could potentially be affected if Eastern Airways does move into administration connect locations of strategic significance to the UK's clean energy strategy and, as such, are important to the regional economy of North East Scotland. My understanding is that Eastern Airways also operates charter flights for the energy sector from Aberdeen, including to Shetland and Newcastle.

It is being reported that Eastern Airways employs in the region of 250 staff between its hubs in Humberside and Aberdeen. For smaller regional airports, the potential loss of a single airline can have disproportionate knock-on impact on operations. At a crucial time for development of the renewable energy sector and the transition of the supply chain it is more important than ever that connections between hubs such as Aberdeen, Humberside and Teesside are maintained.

I am therefore writing to seek your assurance that the Scottish Government will use all levers at its disposal to keep these crucial routes open, offer support to any affected workforce at Aberdeen and Wick, and work with the airports to ensure these routes are maintained. If AGCC can be of any assistance in this process, we stand ready to help.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Russell Borthwick
Chief Executive



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