



**Aberdeen &
Grampian
Chamber of
Commerce**

Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
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Dear Secretary of State,

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. These routes all connect locations of strategic significance to the UK's clean energy sector and supply chain and, as such, are also important to the regional economy of North East Scotland as well as to delivery of the government's clean energy ambitions. 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 its 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 UK government will take every step possible to keep these crucial routes open. If AGCC can be of any assistance in the process, we stand ready to help.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Russell Borthwick
Chief Executive

In cc:
Keir Mather MP
Minister for Aviation, Maritime and Decarbonisation