



Russell George MS
Chair
Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

3 March 2021

Dear Russell,

CARDIFF AIRPORT

I am writing to share with you a Written Statement that I will issue shortly today on the future support for Cardiff Airport.

COVID-19 has had an inconceivable impact on all of our lives, locally and around the globe. The pandemic continues to cause major disruption to all aspects of our lives and the economy, and the travel industry has been one of the hardest hit; devastated by the curtailment of virtually all passenger flights, deserted airports and entire fleets grounded.

Further to the unprecedented package of support that we have already put in place to support individuals and businesses across Wales, today I will set out a financial package to provide specific support to CIAL in the medium term, against a five year rescue and recovery plan. This maximises the recovery of our loan investment and provides sustainability for the airport while delivering the lowest lifetime cost option. It provides the best way forward on strictly commercial/market investor terms, while acknowledging the unavoidable risks and uncertainties created by the global crisis in the industry.

The package of support will not only sustain the future of thousands of direct and indirect jobs but it will also continue to ensure Wales has a place on the global stage – protecting our international airport which is a vital piece of our transport infrastructure.

The rescue and recovery plan will be performance managed regularly in order to evaluate and protect our ongoing investment. Further to this, my officials are also in the process of reviewing the governance of Cardiff Airport and strengthening the role that Holdco will play moving forward. I will let you know the outcome of those deliberations in due course.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The full details of the financial support package are provided within the Statement attached and I will be attending the EIS Committee on 10 March.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Ken Skates AS/MS

Gweinidog yr Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales