



**Friends of  
the Earth  
Scotland**

## **TRANSform Scotland**

*the campaign for sustainable transport*

**airportwatch**

**railfuture**

Iain Gray MSP  
Minister for Enterprise, Transport and Lifelong Learning  
Scottish Executive Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Department  
Meridian Court, 5 Cadogan Street  
Glasgow, G2 6AT

December 6, 2002

Dear Minister

### **Air transport consultation**

Our coalition of groups, representing over 100 environment and transport organisations, are writing to request that when the Scottish Executive relaunches its consultation on the future of Scottish air transport that it takes full account of the recommendations made in the recent reports from the Royal Commission for Environmental Pollution and the UK Sustainable Development Commission.

Both reports makes plain their deep concern about the impact of rapid growth in air travel on the Government's commitments to tackle climate change. It is therefore unfortunate that the previous air transport consultation downplayed the climate change implications of the projected growth in air travel. To date the Government has relied heavily on questionable UK wide forecasts which predict that air traffic will almost triple by 2030, increasing from 180 million passengers a year at present, to over 500 million by 2030. In Scotland this would mean air passenger growth from today's 16 million per annum to anywhere between 26 to 51 million by 2030. **It is clear that this rate of unconstrained growth would seriously undermine Government commitments to tackle climate change.**

A modern, environmentally-responsible, air transport policy for the next 30 years must discard this outdated 'predict and provide' approach; manage demand for travel within environmental constraints; use economic instruments to ensure air travel pays fully for the environmental and social impacts it imposes on society; and make urgent investment in the alternatives to short-haul aviation. Without these key ingredients, the Scottish policy on air transport will provide a recipe for years of conflict between government, industry and communities.

**It is our considered view that when the Scottish Executive relaunches the air transport consultation that it should make clear that the climate change implications of aviation must play a central role in framing future policy** We look forward to your early response on this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Kevin Dunion  
Chief Executive, Friends of the Earth Scotland

Colin Howden  
Campaign Manager, TRANSform Scotland

Jeff Gazzaru  
National Director, Airport Watch

David Hansen  
Secretary, Railfuture Scotland

cc: Alistair Darling MP. Secretary of State for Transport, Department for Transport

Please reply to: TRANSform Scotland, 72 Newhaven Road, Edinburgh, EH6 5QG