

ECONOMY AND FAIR WORK COMMITTEE

**31st Meeting, 2023 (Session 6), Wednesday
6 December 2023**

Glasgow Prestwick Airport evidence session

Note by the Clerk

Background

1. In its [session 5 legacy report](#), the Rural Economy and Connectivity (REC) Committee noted that “since taking public ownership of Prestwick Airport in 2013, the Scottish Government has made ongoing attempts to sell the airport to a private sector bidder. During 2020, sale negotiations progressed with an unnamed preferred bidder, but the sale ultimately fell through.” The REC Committee drew successor committees to the Airport’s status and suggested ongoing scrutiny.
2. In 2018, the REC Committee took evidence from Stuart Adams, the then Chief Executive, Andrew Miller, the Non-Executive Chairman and Ian Forgie (the then Director of Finance) on the Airport’s financial management and strategic plans. The link to the transcript of that session [is available on the Parliament’s website](#).
3. This Committee recently considered [a letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy](#) about an approach to purchase Scottish Ministers’ interest in the Airport. The Committee agreed to hold an evidence session to discuss the Airport’s operational strategy and progress towards achieving its stated strategic purpose of returning the business to private ownership with a sustainable future as an airport.

Witnesses

4. The Committee will take evidence first from—
 - Ian Forgie, CEO of Glasgow Prestwick Airport; and
 - Forsyth Black, Non-Executive Chairman, Glasgow Prestwick Airport.

and then from—

- Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy;
and
- Colin Cook Director for Economic Development.

**Economy and Fair Work Committee Clerk
30 November 2023**