



Briefing for the Public Petitions Committee

Petition Number: [PE1506](#)

Main Petitioner: Alison C Tait

Subject: Calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to rename Glasgow Prestwick International Airport to 'Robert Burns International Airport'.

Background

Glasgow Prestwick Airport is located 1.2 miles northeast of the town of Prestwick in South Ayrshire. The airport is wholly owned by Scottish Ministers, who purchased it from previous owners Infratil (Prestwick Aviation Holdings Ltd) on 23 November 2013. Scottish Ministers established a holding company TS Prestwick HoldCo Ltd, to purchase the shares in Prestwick Aviation Holdings Ltd.

All external and most internal “Pure Dead Brilliant” branding has been removed from the airport and its website. Any decision on renaming Glasgow Prestwick Airport is a matter for Scottish Ministers and the HoldCo.

Glasgow Prestwick Airport is Scotland’s fourth busiest, handling 1,067,000 passengers during 2012, a considerable fall from a peak of 2,421,000 passengers in 2007. Glasgow Prestwick Airport handled 10,314 tonnes of air freight during 2012, again a considerable fall from the 31,517 tonnes handled in 2007. Glasgow Prestwick Airport is currently served by one scheduled airline, Ryanair, with routes to 25 destinations. Oska Travel has announced that they will operate a limited number of charter flights between Prestwick and Antalya during March 2014.

Every international airport has a three letter code associated with it, issued by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). These can be seen on the baggage tags attached to passenger hold luggage. Glasgow Prestwick Airport’s IATA code is PIK. A change in airport name does not usually require a change in the IATA code. The assignment of these codes is governed by IATA Resolution 763, and it is administered by IATA headquarters in Montreal. The codes are published in the IATA Airline Coding Directory, which is updated every six months.

Scottish Government Action

The Scottish Government currently has no plans to rename Glasgow Prestwick Airport.

Scottish Parliament Action

The Scottish Parliament has not considered the possible re-naming of Glasgow Prestwick Airport

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Senior Researcher

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