



Mark Isherwood MS
Chair
Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

9 July 2025

Dear Chair

CARDIFF AIRPORT

Thank you for your letter of 8 July.

You may already have seen the Written Statement issued this morning by the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy & Planning relating to the Welsh Government's economic investment package for Cardiff Airport.

<https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-update-welsh-government-investment-package-cardiff-airport>

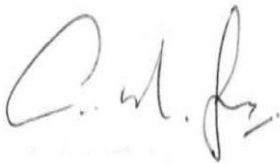
The Statement confirms that the Welsh Government has now received formal notice that Bristol Airport is challenging the decision of the Welsh Ministers by way of an appeal to the Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT).

As the Welsh Government is now in a litigation process, I will be limited in the information that I can provide to the Committee in terms of regular updates and responses to questions. However, Members will be able to track the progress of the CAT case online (<https://www.catribunal.org.uk/>) and I would be happy to share with the Committee any relevant information that may be released into the public domain during the case. We expect that within the next week or two the CAT may publish Bristol Airport's initial Notice of Appeal, which will enable Members to see the nature of the claims involved.

At this early stage in the process, I am not able to provide you with an estimate of when the case might conclude. There is due to be a Case Management Conference (CMC) at the CAT later this month, which should yield an indicative schedule for subsequent hearings. When confirmed, the details of the CMC will be published on the CAT website and Members will be able to view a livestream of the session if they so wish. To assist with the scheduling of the Committee's next evidence session on Cardiff Airport, I will write to you again at the appropriate moment when we have a firmer estimate of the expected timescales for the case, and will provide a written update to the Committee quarterly thereafter.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Slade', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Slade
Director General
Economy, Energy and Transport