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## **Cardiff Airport**

Thank you for your letter dated 21 March 2023, which provided a six monthly update about Cardiff Airport (the Airport), as well as follow up about the withdrawal of Wizz Air. The Committee considered this letter at its meeting on 30 March 2023 and Members would welcome clarification of, or additional information regarding, the following matters.

### **Quarterly Reporting**

Your letter set out information on the monitoring and assessment of the Airport's performance against the Welsh Government Rescue and Restructuring Plan. We noted this did not say whether the target for the Airport to commit to become carbon neutral by 31 March 2023, included in the metrics in your letter dated 21 September 2022, had been met. We also identified that the progress report did not include information about the Airport's performance against the additional metric you shared in confidence with the Committee, a written update about which you said would be provided as part of the reporting of progress. We would welcome an update about the Airport's performance against these metrics.

### **WGC Holdco**

We noted your letter of 21 September 2022 said the recruitment of two new Non-Executive Directors (NEDs) on the Board of Directors of WGC Holdco, in place of the two Senior Civil Servants, was soon to begin and you hoped to conclude it early in the new year. However, in your update, you set out a different timetable. You say you will soon be starting the public appointments process and hope to

conclude it by Summer Recess. We would welcome an explanation why the timetable has been pushed back and the recruitment delayed.

You also told us, in September, the Welsh Government was taking internal advice on the principles and rules over the appointment of a Chair of a wholly owned subsidiary and this would inform the final decision about the Chair of WGC Holdco. You agreed to write to us once you had a clearer picture.

In your update, you say you expect a final decision on the appointment of a new WGC Holdco Chair to be made before Summer Recess. However, you do not refer to the advice. We would welcome information about the advice and the Welsh Government's plans for the appointment of the Chair of WGC Holdco.

## Reviews

Finally, your letter notes Welsh Government officials are working with the Airport to understand the impact of the withdrawal of Wizz Air on the timescale for self-sustainability. You also note Ministers asked Welsh Government officials to work with the Airport to consider potential mitigations given the impact of inflation on the cost of maintaining regularity compliance and the consequential pressures on the capital investment budget. We would welcome information about the timescales for these reviews and when you may be able to share the outcomes with the Committee, including any revisions to the targets and associated deadlines under the Rescue and Restructuring Plan, particularly the timetable for the Airport's return to financial viability if it is likely to take longer than six years (by 2025-26).

We would welcome your response by 5 May 2023.

Yours sincerely



Mark Isherwood MS

Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.